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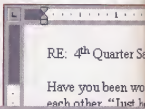
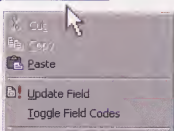


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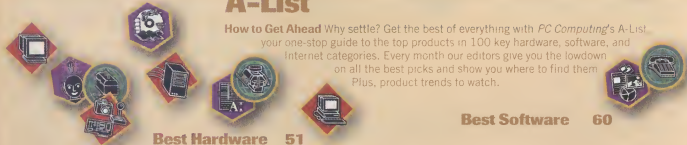


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[Powered By Pentium® II Processors]

No compromises here. Gateway 2000 always has the hottest technology — now it's Intel's next-generation Pentium® II processor. Speeds up to 266MHz dish out high-powered 32-bit performance while extra cache on the processor cranks up the raw horsepower. MMX™ technology punches up your experience, taking MMX technology-enhanced software to levels of performance that will rock your multimedia world. The wait is over! Both MMX technology and the power of 32-bit processing are yours with Pentium II processors. We'll custom build your dream machine with a Pentium II processor *and* all the extras.

TelePath® Fax Modem for Windows®, x2™ Technology upgradeable. Call for details on how x2 Technology can shift your desktop modem into high gear. Pre-installed Web browser and utilities get you on-line fast. Now nothing can slow you down.

Boston Acoustics High-Fidelity 3-Piece Speaker System gives you next-generation audio worthy of the chip on the G6-266XL.


Massive Storage. New processor, screaming modem, hi-fi sound — don't leave out the cavernous storage. You'll want a huge hard drive to store all your system's software fuel. Choose the monstrous 6.4GB 10ms EIDE hard drive. The big daddy of the bunch is a 9GB 8.2ms Ultra Wide SCSI-2 hard drive delivering data at up to 124MB/second burst throughput.

Powerful Performance

Feed your insatiable appetite for technology. From the monster muscle XL machines to our work horse systems, we have PCs with guts at a price you can afford. Make no compromises. Call Gateway for your Pentium II processor-based system today!



[This G6-266XL is loaded to the max, including a huge monitor with a 19.7-inch viewable area and the Boston Acoustics High-Fidelity 3-Piece Speaker System.]

A collage of images including a meeting, a cow, and a computer monitor. The meeting scene shows a woman in a red jacket pointing at a screen while others look on. The cow scene shows a black and white cow standing in a room. The computer monitor scene shows a large screen displaying a presentation.

Leading the world in convergence technology,
we created the Destination™ Big Screen PC/TV, a
whole new computer category! It's tomorrow's
system today.

Quality Service

As the owner of a Gateway computer, you have access to an entire team of knowledgeable staff. These knowledgeable staff members are available to you every hour of the day. And they're experts in providing technical support. They provide the highest quality service available.

Rememberable Storage Kings!
First to standardize CD-ROM drives on desktops in '94, sold CD-recordable drives in '96, led the way with modular CD-ROM drives on all Gateway Solo™ portables in '97 and now we offer and Jaz® drives.

Computer Shopper readers agree — we've blown them away for 6 years running! Best Buy awards keep flying in the door.

BUCKING TRENDS

Gateway Does It Again

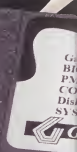
Last fall Gateway broke away from the pack and launched the Intel Pentium Pro processor into the home PC market bringing 32-bit processing to the masses. People around the globe took advantage of the opportunity and beefed up their home computing. (Sorry Gateway, no pun intended.)

Now Gateway's doing it again. Main Street U.S.A. will have equal access to Intel's newest technology, the power-packed **Pentium II processor**. While some industry leaders are holding back, waiting for Pentium II processors to take off in the workplace, Gateway 2000 rocks the consumer world. More power to them. **!**

Gateway 2000 computer. Many of our technical support people are on call for you every day of the week. Our toll-free phone call away. Our support representatives are dedicated to giving you the greatest service and support. These "geniuses" are kept up-to-date on the latest computer technology, so they can answer your questions with ease. Major account and corporate Gateway customers even have their own technical support team assigned specifically to troubleshoot their unique situations.



More computing more



'96
212

PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR SYSTEMS

[This is what you've been waiting for!]

Gateway G-Series Multimedia Systems

G6-266XL

- Intel® 266MHz Pentium® II Processor with 512K Cache
- 64MB EDO DRAM
- Vivitron®1100 .28dp Monitor (19.7" viewable area)
- STB® ViRGE/GX 4MB, 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 9GB 8.2ms Ultra Wide SCSI-2 Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- TR4 SCSI 4GB Tape Backup Drive
- Ensoniq® Wavetable Sound Card
- Boston Acoustics High-Fidelity 3-Piece Speakers
- TelePath® Fax Modem for Windows, x2™ Technology Upgradeable*
- Tower Case
- 104† Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse™
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta® 97*
- MMX™ Technology-Enhanced Software**
- Gateway Gold™ Premium Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$4999 As low as* \$174/mo.

G6-266M

- Intel 266MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 64MB EDO DRAM
- CrystalScan™700 .28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- STB ViRGE/GX 4MB, 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 6.4GB 10ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Omega® Internal ZIP™ Drive
- Ensoniq Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec™ Lansing ACS-410 & ACS-251 Speakers
- TelePath Fax Modem for Windows, x2 Technology Upgradeable*
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104† Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- MMX Technology-Enhanced Software**
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$3349 As low as* \$116/mo.

G6-233M

- Intel 233MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 32MB EDO DRAM
- CrystalScan700 .28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- STB ViRGE/GX 4MB, 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 3.2GB 12ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Ensoniq Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-41 Speakers
- TelePath Fax Modem for Windows, x2 Technology Upgradeable*
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104† Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- MMX Technology-Enhanced Software**
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\$2649 As low as* \$92/mo.

Gateway G-Series Professional Systems

G6-266

- Intel 266MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 64MB EDO DRAM
- CrystalScan700 .28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- STB ViRGE/GX 4MB, 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 6.4GB 10ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104† Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$2999 Business Lease* \$110/mo.

G6-233

- Intel 233MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 32MB EDO DRAM
- CrystalScan700 .28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- 2MB 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 3.2GB 12ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104† Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$2499 Business Lease* \$92/mo.

Destination™ Big Screen PC/TVs

D6-266

- Intel 266MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 64MB EDO DRAM
- Destination 31" VGA Monitor
- STB 2MB VRAM Graphics Accelerator w/ Cable-Ready TV Tuner
- 6.4GB 10ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- EasyPhoto Drive™ Photo Scanner
- Ensoniq Wavetable Sound Card
- harman/kardon® High-Fidelity Sound System
- TelePath Fax Modem for Windows, x2 Technology Upgradeable*
- 7-Bay Charcoal-Colored PC Case
- Wireless Keyboard w/ Integrated EZ Pad™ Pointing Device
- Wireless Field Mouse® Remote
- MS Windows 95
- Destination Software Collection
- MMX Technology-Enhanced Software**
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\$4499 As low as* \$156/mo.

D6-233

- Intel 233MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 32MB EDO DRAM
- Destination 31" VGA Monitor
- STB 2MB VRAM Graphics Accelerator w/ Cable-Ready TV Tuner
- 6.4GB 10ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Ensoniq Wavetable Sound Card
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- TelePath Fax Modem for Windows, x2 Technology Upgradeable*
- 7-Bay Charcoal-Colored PC Case
- Wireless Keyboard w/ Integrated EZ Pad Pointing Device
- Wireless Field Mouse Remote
- MS Windows 95
- Destination Software Collection
- MMX Technology-Enhanced Software**
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*Call for details on x2 Technology upgrades.

**MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97 includes MS Word 97, Excel 97, Publisher 97, Automap® Streets, Small Business Financial Manager and Outlook™ 97.

**MMX Technology-Enhanced Software Bundle includes POD™, Eraser™, Turn About, The Ultimate Human Body Version 2.0, and The Third Dimension™.

*Financing available on approved credit issued and administered by MBNA America® Bank, N.A. Payments based on 36-month term at 14.9% Annual Percentage Rate.

The Destination 31" monitor is covered by a one-year limited warranty. Call or write for a free copy.

Leasing arranged by independent leasing companies to qualified commercial customers. Lease payments based on 36-month term. Lease terms subject to change without notice or obligation.



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GUTSY

COMPANY

[Blazing New Trails]

At Gateway 2000, we do things differently. Who else would headquarter a computer company in South Dakota? And even though we've grown beyond our Midwestern borders, our prairie heritage is still reflected in our pioneering spirit and dedication to technology and value.

Technology Pioneers

When we first stamped onto the computer scene with a national ad starring cows, the phones went crazy and the competition started losing sleep. Gateway's unique blend of technology, quality, service and price were unmatched in the PC industry then, and we've been raising the bar on industry standards ever since. We're committed to bringing you cutting-edge technology. As Intel's new processors have been released (386, 486, Pentium®, Pentium® Pro, Pentium® with MMX™ technology), Gateway has forged the way, letting you get your hands on the gutsiest technology out there. Now we're doing it again with Pentium® II processors. You don't have to settle for yesterday's technology or wait to be let in on the "secret." Plus we have the guts to stand behind this technology with a three-year limited warranty on desktop PCs and award-winning service and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the life of your system.

No Compromises

Count on Gateway 2000 for the inside track on technology. Pentium II processors, MMX technology, huge hard drives, x2™ technology upgrades — it's all here! The wait is over. Order your dream machine today.

NO
GUTS
NO
GLORY!

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Volume 11 • Number 6

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Gateway 2000 G6-233 Pentium II Processor PC

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We're pumped!
Coach Waitt says we're
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Gateway upped the ante
in 1996, installing top-selling
software on all new systems!
Now it's Generations III or
My Office 97, SBC plus Encarta® 97.

97 Year of
the cow!

OTHER *GUTSY* SYSTEMS

[Expect more from Gateway and get it!]

Gateway G-Series Multimedia Systems

G5-200M

- Intel® 200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology
- 32MB Synchronous DRAM
- 512K Pipelined Burst Cache
- CrystalScan™700.28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- 2MB 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 3.2GB 12ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Ensoniq™ WaveTable Sound Card
- Altec™ Lansing ACS-41 Speakers
- TelePath™ Fax Modem for Windows, x2™ Technology Upgradeable*
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS® IntelliMouse™
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta® 97*
- MMX Technology-Enhanced Software**
- Gateway Gold™ Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$2399 As low as* \$84/mo.

G5-166M

- Intel 166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX Technology
- 16MB Synchronous DRAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- CrystalScan500.28dp Monitor (13.9" viewable area)
- 2MB 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 1.6GB 12ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- 16-Bit GATEWAY™ Sound
- Altec Lansing ACS-41 Speakers
- TelePath Fax Modem for Windows, x2 Technology Upgradeable*
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- MMX Technology-Enhanced Software**
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$1799 As low as* \$63/mo.

Please call for other configurations. We custom build each GATEWAY 2000® system to your specifications.



Gateway G-Series Professional Systems

G6-200²

- ▶ Intel 200MHz Pentium® Pro (Dual-Processor Ready)
- 64MB EDO ECC Memory
- 256K Internal Cache
- CrystalScan700.28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- 4MB 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 4GB 8ms SCSI Hard Drive
- 12X SCSI CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- ▶ APC® 650 Pro UPS®
- Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- ▶ MS Windows NT® 4.0 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$3849 Business Lease* \$141/mo.

G5-200

- Intel 200MHz Pentium® Processor
- 32MB Synchronous DRAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- CrystalScan700.28dp Monitor (15.9" viewable area)
- 2MB 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 3.2GB 12ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$1999 Business Lease* \$74/mo.

G5-166

- Intel 166MHz Pentium Processor
- 16MB Synchronous DRAM
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- CrystalScan500.28dp Monitor (13.9" viewable area)
- 2MB 3-D 64-Bit PCI Graphics
- 1.6GB 12ms EIDE Hard Drive
- 12X min/16X max CD-ROM & 3.5" Diskette Drives
- Desktop Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Desktop PCs

\$1599 Business Lease* \$59/mo.

Gateway Solo™ Portable PCs

2200 S5-166XL

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Color Display
- Intel 166MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology
- 48MB EDO DRAM expandable to 80MB
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2MB EDO Video RAM
- Zoomed Video Port
- NTSC/PAL Video Output
- 2GB Hard Drive
- Modular 6X min/11X max CD-ROM Drive
- Modular 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 16-Bit WaveTable Sound and Stereo Speakers
- 33.6 PCMCIA Data™/14.4 Fax Modem
- 2 Lithium Ion Batteries & AC Pack
- 85-Key MS Windows 95 Keyboard
- Carrying Case
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Portable PCs

\$4399 As low as* \$153/mo.

2200 S5-166

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Color Display
- Intel 166MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology
- 32MB EDO DRAM expandable to 80MB
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 2MB EDO Video RAM
- Zoomed Video Port
- NTSC/PAL Video Output
- 2GB Hard Drive
- Modular 6X min/11X max CD-ROM Drive
- Modular 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 16-Bit WaveTable Sound and Stereo Speakers
- Lithium Ion Battery & AC Pack
- 85-Key MS Windows 95 Keyboard
- Carrying Case
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Encarta 97*
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Portable PCs

\$3849 As low as* \$134/mo.

2200 S5-120

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Color Display
- Intel 120MHz Pentium Processor
- 24MB EDO DRAM expandable to 80MB
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 1MB EDO Video RAM
- Zoomed Video Port
- 1GB Hard Drive
- Modular 6X min/11X max CD-ROM Drive
- Modular 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 16-Bit Sound & Stereo Speakers
- NiMH Battery & AC Pack
- 85-Key MS Windows 95 Keyboard
- Carrying Case
- MS Windows 95
- MS Works 95
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Portable PCs

\$2729 As low as* \$95/mo.

2100 S5-120

- 11.3" SVGA DSTN Color Display
- Intel 120MHz Pentium Processor
- 16MB EDO DRAM expandable to 72MB
- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 1MB EDO Video RAM
- Zoomed Video Port
- 1GB Hard Drive
- Modular 6X min/11X max CD-ROM Drive
- Modular 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 16-Bit Sound & Stereo Speakers
- NiMH Battery & AC Pack
- 85-Key MS Windows 95 Keyboard
- Carrying Case
- MS Windows 95
- MS Works 95
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for Portable PCs

\$1999 As low as* \$70/mo.

*Maximum data transfer rate dependent on certain variables including particular modems with which you are communicating, telephone lines, communications software and communications protocols.

GUTSY UPGRADES (Sold only with the purchase of a system.)

Desktop Upgrades

- Altec™ Lansing ACS-251 Subwoofer \$75
- Altec Lansing ACS-410 Dolby® Surround Sound Speaker System w/ ACS-251 Subwoofer \$120
(upgrade from PCs that include Altec ACS-41 speakers)
- Iomega® Ditto™ 3200 Internal Tape Backup Unit \$199
3200MB with compression, nominal 1600MB
- Iomega Internal ZIP™ 100MB Drive \$139
(includes three 100MB cartridges)
- Iomega External ZIP 100MB Drive \$159
- Iomega Jaz® 1GB Drive \$429
(includes SCSI controller and 1GB cartridge)
- MS® Windows NT® 4.0 Upgrade \$99
(upgrade from PCs that include MS Windows® 95)

Portable PC Upgrades

- Gateway Solo™ Mini Docking Station \$199
- 33.6 Data™/14.4 Fax Modem \$200
- Gateway Solo 2100 upgrade from an 11.3" Dual Scan to a 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix display \$530

**Maximum data transfer rate dependent on certain variables including particular modems with which you are communicating, telephone lines, communications software and communications protocols



Destination™ Big Screen PC/TV Upgrades

- harman/kardon® High-Fidelity Sound System
Seven-piece Dolby Pro Logic® Surround Sound speaker system including AVR-10 audio/video receiver with remote, subwoofer, center channel, and four satellites for the ultimate multimedia audio experience. \$599
- EasyPhoto Drive™ Photo Scanner Upgrade \$149
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Service & Support for Desktop Systems

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Extended Three-Year On-Site Agreement†† including priority 800 number for access to technical experts.

- At time of system purchase \$99
- Within current on-site service agreement \$129

For our complete line of software and peripherals call GATEWAY™ component add-on sales at 800-846-2080.
Sales Hours: 7am-10pm Weekdays (CT).

††On-site service is available to most locations in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Canada after you and your Gateway technician determine an on-site visit is necessary. On-site service is provided by PC Technology Services, Inc. On-site is not available for any monitor, mouse, keyboard, or portable system. Write or call for a free copy of the on-site service agreement.

GUTSY EXTRAS (Available to existing customers and new Gateway customers with system purchase.)

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Our Gateway Select program lets you know you're getting software that meets or exceeds our standards for quality, value and ease of use.
Software

- Games & Entertainment Pack II Includes Bug!™; Deadlok™; MechWarrior™ 2; Mercenaries™; 9™; Pitfall: The Mayan Adventure®; SPQR: The Empire's Darkest Hour™; and PC ProPad gaming device. \$99
- Finance Pack II *(U.S. Shipping Only)* Includes Quicken® Deluxe 6, Quicken Financial Planner™ 2, Quicken Family Lawyer™ 7, and Quicken Parents' Guide to Money™. \$69
- Kid's BackPack™ IV
Includes Math Blaster®: In Search Of Spot, Freddy Fish™ And The Case Of The Missing Kelp Seeds™ Pajama Sam™ In "No Need To Hide When It's Dark Outside,"™™ and Muppet Treasure Island™. \$59

Extras

- MS SideWinder™ 3D Pro Joystick \$59
- APC® Back-UPS® Office \$149
- APC 650 Pro UPS \$329
- Epson® PhotoPlus™ Color Photo Scanner \$199
- Visioneer™ PaperPort Vx™ Scanner \$249

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- Epson Stylus Color 600 Ink Jet Printer \$299
- Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 694C Color Printer \$299
- Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 820Cse Color Printer \$399
- Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5L Xtra Laser Printer \$399
- Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 6P Laser Printer \$749



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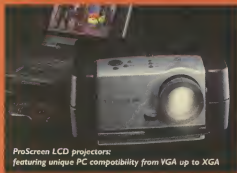


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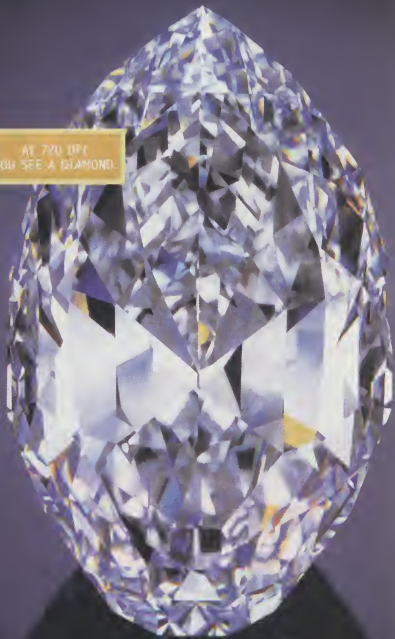


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Put Your Business on the Web

If it seems like your business is everywhere but online, don't worry. We can help. Link to our special report, "Put Your Business on the Web in 24 Hours or Less!" and find all the resources you need to gain a business presence on the Web in no time.

World Wide Waste

Are you a professional time-waster? Then don't procrastinate—check out this month's Net Kahuna (page 344), where Ron White leads you through the top ten time-wasting sites on the Web.

Decision Maker

Which server should you buy? What's the best color printer? You'll find answers to these questions and more in our exclusive A-List (page 51), with editors' top picks in 100 key hardware, software, and Internet product categories.



Take a Web Vacation

Can't afford to get away from the office this summer? Hop on board the family truckster with Clark Griswold, aka Chevy Chase, as HotList exposes the top vacation-related sites from Griswold's imaginary bookmark list (page 348).



WHERE CAN YOU FIND PC COMPUTING ONLINE?

Visit the *PC Computing* home page daily on the Web by pointing your browser to www.pccomputing.com. You'll also find us on CompuServe/ZDNet (GO ZNT-PCC), Microsoft Network (GO PCCOMPUTING), and America Online/ZDNet (KEYWORD ZDNET).

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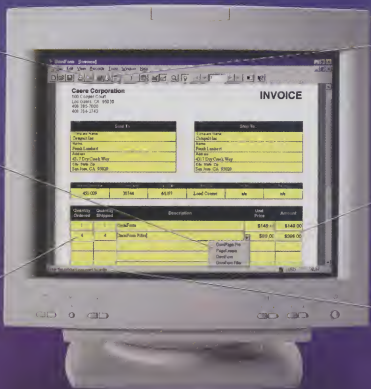
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PC PRANKS

Fueling the Fire

I liked the artwork in your April feature story "How to Use Technology to Get Ahead, Torture Your Enemies, and Destroy the Competition... Without Getting Caught!" (page 202). I, too, read *Mad* magazine in the '60s, much to my parents' dismay. But are you nuts? As if network managers didn't have enough problems, you had to publish instructions for pranks. Watch your fax, guys!

BERT J. BINGEL
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

Buy the Book

I thought "How to Use Technology to Get Ahead, Torture Your Enemies, and Destroy the Competition... Without Getting Caught!" (April) was great. If you ever put a book together on the subject, I'll buy it. Think about it.

MARK NORMAND
VIA THE INTERNET

Dirty Tricks

Your magazine usually provides useful information for making the workplace more productive. "How to Use Technology to Get Ahead, Torture Your Enemies,

I thought it would start smoking. Funny—she never complained of carpal tunnel syndrome.

HANK JONAS
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Stick to the Facts

I couldn't agree more with Paul Somerson's comments about the excess and stupidity of most litigation in our country ("Ouch!" April). However, he misrepresented the facts concerning the spilled-coffee case. The victim asked only that McDonald's pay her medical bills. When McDonald's refused, she turned

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Dirty Tricks

Your magazine usually provides useful information for making the workplace more productive. "How to Use Technology to Get Ahead, Torture Your Enemies, and Destroy the Competition . . . Without Getting Caught!" (April) does exactly the opposite. It's on par with the *Anarchist's Cookbook*, which gives directions for making bombs. Given the tone of the article, I half expect you to send me a mail bomb in reply to this message.

WILLIAM BONNER
VIA THE INTERNET

Lawsuit City

I enjoyed Paul Somerson's April column "Ouch!" page 63). I'm sure you'll soon be sued by someone with carpal tunnel syndrome charging that you've belittled his or her ailment and caused mental anguish. You can probably settle for \$100,000 out of court. I had a secretary who typed so fast on an IBM Selectric that

I thought it would start smoking. Funny—she never complained of carpal tunnel syndrome.

HANK JONAS
VIA THE INTERNET

Stick to the Facts

I couldn't agree more with Paul Somerson's comments about the excess and stupidity of most litigation in our country ("Ouch!" April). However, he misrepresented the facts concerning the spilled-coffee case. The victim asked only that McDonald's pay her medical bills. When McDonald's refused, she turned to the courts. The jury was responsible for the excessive compensation.

LARRY WINSLOW
VIA THE INTERNET

LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT. She bought coffee. She put the cup between her knees in a moving car. She spilled the coffee on herself. Instead of taking responsibility, she wanted McDonald's to pay. And when the jury awarded her millions, she happily accepted. Are we missing something here?

John-foolery

Well, you've earned my respect. It's been a long time since I fell for an April Fools' Day prank, but chalk me up as one of

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your victims ("Down the Tubes—Not!" April, page 67). I should have known something was amiss in John Dvorak's well-written column on the rebirth of tube technology. Never before has a magazine article caused me to feel such intense anger, nor has one inspired me to laugh so hard. Thanks, *PC Computing*, I enjoyed the laugh at myself.

JOSHUA D. HENSLEY
VIA THE INTERNET

Totally Tubular

You had me going for second . . . but only a second. John Dvorak's April column ("Down the Tubes—Not!") harkens back to the April Fools' joke printed by *Radio-Electronics* magazine in the mid-1930s. It was a story about the amazing Westinghouse miniradio. It used very small tubes (and *did* glow green) and was a marvel for the time. Nonetheless, I think I'll keep an eye out for the Pentubium Prosky.

GEORGE GRAY
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

No April Fool

I'm proud of myself because I didn't get beyond "it uses around 500 watts to run" in John Dvorak's April column. Then I spelled *yekralam* backward. Most of my technical-communications students, however, read it to the end. Don't feel too smug, though; the two computer-science majors in the class nailed you early on.

CHUCK GENTHE
VIA THE INTERNET

A Little Levity

Hey, very very funny ("Down the Tubes—Not!" April). I wish computer magazines would lighten up a little. They're always so serious. Great day-brightener.

STEPHEN HEATON
VIA THE INTERNET

Show Him the Money

The Taylor & Jerome column on Web retail success was interesting ("Accidental Millionaires?" April, page 65). However, featuring three or four successful sites doesn't prove that the Web is a robust, cash-laden marketplace—especially when, unlike Auto-By-Tel, few companies can

afford a half-time commercial during the Superbowl. That kind of financial power is beyond most businesses on the Net.

BOB RILEY
VIA THE INTERNET

TWELVE MONTHS AGO Auto-By-Tel couldn't afford a Superbowl ad either. The beauty of the Web is that it levels the playing field. With a combination of Web advertising and an aggressive presence in search engines, even little guys get noticed.

Just Can't Get Enough

I loved the April Taylor & Jerome column ("Accidental Millionaires?"). It inspired me to think of new ways to do business.

NICK DADDIS
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

Online Shopping

I couldn't agree more with Taylor & Jerome ("Accidental Millionaires?" April). Living in Bermuda really reduces my access to complete markets and all the products available at most malls. Being able to shop online is a godsend.

COLIN FOSS
VIA THE INTERNET

True Torture

Wimps! Office workers! Notebook torture! I laugh at your tests ("Extreme Computing," April, page 152). As a cop in an Arizona city, I had to find a laptop rugged enough to be cop-proof. My tests included pouring 44-ounce sodas and 20-ounce cups of hot coffee onto the keyboard and screen; dropping the computer from the trunk of a car onto asphalt; and dropping it 5 feet to a hard tile floor—all while the unit was open and running. Oh yes, and the machine must withstand Arizona desert heat inside a car, baking not for hours but for months. One system—the Panasonic CF-25—survived all the tests with only cosmetic damage to its magnesium case.

MATT BUCKO
VIA THE INTERNET

COP-PROOF? We only tried to determine which notebooks were marketing-director proof, financial-analyst proof, and journalist proof. Hats off to Arizona's finest.

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Alabama	Kansas	Idaho
Arizona	Kentucky	Illinois
California	Louisiana	Indiana
Colorado	Maine	Iowa
Connecticut	Maryland	Kansas
Delaware	Massachusetts	Kentucky
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Georgia	Mississippi	Maryland
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Idaho	Montana	Michigan
Illinois	Nebraska	Minnesota
Indiana	Nevada	Mississippi
Iowa	Nevada	Montana
Kansas	New Hampshire	Nebraska
Kentucky	New Jersey	Nevada
Louisiana	New Mexico	New Hampshire
Maine	New York	New Jersey
Maryland	North Carolina	New Mexico
Massachusetts	North Dakota	New York
Michigan	Ohio	North Carolina
Minnesota	Oklahoma	North Dakota
Mississippi	Oregon	Ohio
Montana	Oregon	Oklahoma
Nebraska	Pennsylvania	Oregon
Nevada	Rhode Island	Pennsylvania
New Hampshire	South Carolina	Rhode Island
New Jersey	South Dakota	South Carolina
New Mexico	Tennessee	South Dakota
New York	Texas	Tennessee
North Carolina	Utah	Texas
North Dakota	Vermont	Utah
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California	Louisiana	Indiana
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What's in a Name?

The cover of the April issue of *PC Computing* and the feature article by Dave Gerding assert that "CD-ROM Is Dead!" The early demise will be brought about by something called DVD. Is that Dreaded Venereal Disease? The acronym is not defined in the article, which was excellent in all other respects.

TONY LAMER
VIA THE INTERNET

THE COMPANIES THAT CREATED the DVD standard couldn't agree on a name, so officially it doesn't stand for anything. No lie. Initially it stood for Digital Video Disc, and later, Digital Versatile Disc.

Lazy, Lazy

Paul Somerson's "Daisy Daisy" column (March, page 59) has me confused. He writes that computer software is unfriendly. When did the computer stop being a tool and become an applicant? I have worked

for several years supporting and repairing PCs, and at least 80 percent of all the problems I solve are user-error related. Are hardware and software products too difficult to use? Or is the problem that it's easier to complain than to learn?

PHIL VOGLER
VIA THE INTERNET

COULD THE FACT THAT 80 PERCENT of users have problems with products possibly mean something? Could it perhaps be that all this stuff is absurdly difficult for most users to figure out? Could it also be that PC-support workers often peg users as complainers instead of normal folks who shouldn't have to put up with such nonsense just to get work done?

Bet-Free Net

In response to your question "Should Internet gambling be legal?" (Mail, March, page 37): simply, no! The Internet crosses state lines, and online gambling

should not be allowed in states that do not allow gambling. Also, there is no way to stop minors from using and abusing the system.

BOB CONLEY
VIA THE INTERNET

For the Record

The Web address for eTrust, an organization devoted to promoting online privacy (Mail, April, page 29), is www.etrust.com.

The phone number for Brother International ("A Printer for Every Desktop," April, page 188) is (800) 827-6843.

Intershop Online ("Set Up Shop on the Internet," May, page 84) uses Sybase SQL Server II. It also features time-based sales and one-to-one marketing.

HAS PUTTING YOUR BUSINESS ON THE WEB PAID OFF? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, *PC Computing*, 50 Beale St., 13th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105; or via the Internet at 72241.1724@compuserve.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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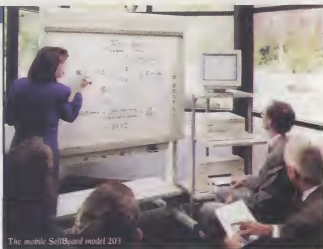


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Wednesday:

Search through records to
find receipts justifying
expenses. Stand in line to
use the fax machine. Curse
the AP department.

Tuesday:

Sort through 1996
paperwork. File some
documents. Photocopy
others. Recycle the
originals. Repeat
process until desk is
recognizable.

Friday:

Organize marketing research,
memos, and sales projections by
client, product, and quarter.

Thursday:

Spend six precious hours retying
budget proposals that will probably
get rejected, anyway.

Weekend:

Find, retype, and e-mail that newspaper
article about the competition to the sales
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Sun, the creator of Java,[™] now announces the 100% Pure Java program. It can make your business 100% more competitive by showing you the most powerful way to implement Java technology and services. By developing just one version of a mission-critical application in 100% Pure Java, then deploying it to the various platforms and OS environments on your intranet, your business can stay current and reduce IT expenditures. And soon you will be able to buy 100% Pure Java applications off the shelf and deploy them immediately, anywhere. To find out how 100% Pure Java can help your business, request or download a copy of our definitive **100% Pure Java White Paper** today. Because you can bet your competition will.

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or

<http://www.sun.com/>

Also available by calling 1-800-JAVASOFT



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Circle 294 on reader service card.

The SHOULDER

Also known as:

"YOUR PERSONAL LUGGAGE RACK"

Bent and bowed from the weight of the world—as well as briefcases, garment bags and gift shop impulse buys—the shoulder longs for a notebook it hardly knows is there.

FUJITSU

FUJITSU PC CORPORATION

Built for Humans.



Designed for a portable world, the LifeBook™ 600 Series is fashionably light and thin. But in the corporate arena, performance is the bottom line.

Well, this notebook has all the power of a cigar-smoking executive. It features a 133MHz or 150MHz Intel Pentium® processor available with MMX™ technology* and an enhancement unit option to give your work that multimedia spit and polish.

*Intel Pentium processors with MMX technology available on select models only.
LifeBook is a trademark of Fujitsu PC Corporation, and Fujitsu and the Fujitsu logo are trademarks of Fujitsu Ltd. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks or registered trademarks are property of their respective companies. ©1997 Fujitsu PC Corporation. All rights reserved.

Designed for



Microsoft®
Windows 95



ONE PLEASINGLY
PORTABLE NOTEBOOK.

The
LifeBook
600
Series.



①

It's remarkably light—weighing in at 4.4 lbs. It's ultra-thin. At only 1.2", it slips easily into that jam-packed thing you call a briefcase.



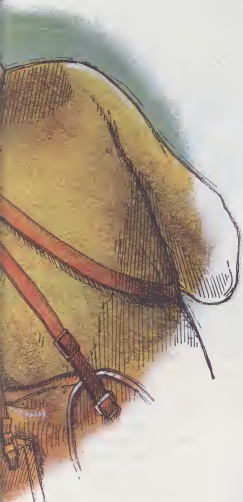
②

A second Lithium ion battery option for anyone with a serious work ethic. And a standard internal 33.6 fax/modem so the world knows it.



③

The enhancement unit houses an 8x CD-ROM, 3.5" floppy disk drive, stereo speakers and docking ports so you can take desktop power on the road.



Add it all up and the LifeBook 600 Series is one portable, powerful machine. A great combination for professionals who carry the business world on their shoulders.



A 12.1" active-matrix display and Zoom video support can help you carry off even the biggest presentation.

FUJITSU PC CORPORATION. For more info, call 1-888-4-ON-THE-GO, ext. F511, visit www.fujitsu-pc.com or get a QuikFacts fax at 1-800-936-5209.

Circle 158 on reader service card.

Pulse

Network Connections

(world shipments of NICs in millions)

- 10Mbps Ethernet
- 10/100Mbps Ethernet



SOURCE: IDC

Hooked In: Networking technologies like ATM are encroaching on traditional Ethernet territory. But new, faster 10/100Mbps Ethernet will likely dwarf the competition.

Web Business

(crossed-hair income of U.S. Internet users)

- Under \$35K
- \$35K-\$50K
- \$50K-\$100K
- Over \$100K



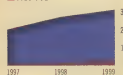
SOURCE: O'REILLY & ASSOCIATES

Big Sale: If you sell things over the Web, you've got plenty of potential buyers. Half of all U.S. households with Web surfers earn more than \$50,000 a year.

PC Power

(household connections in millions)

- PCs
- Net TVs



SOURCE: JUPITER COMMUNICATIONS

PC Power: Despite their higher price, PCs will remain more popular than Net TVs for years to come. Who wants to surf the Web while watching TV anyway?

SMART CARDS

Easy Money

Shop till you drop is about to take on a vastly different meaning. Smart cards are finally here, making online shopping and electronic banking painless and secure. Several vendors are creating devices that will let your PC read and write on a smart card so you can download cash credits from your bank or upload them to your creditors or Internet merchants—any time of day or night.

What's a smart card? It's a 2-by-3-inch piece of plastic with an embedded processor and memory—think of it as a credit card with smarts. Telephone companies and toll-booth operators already offer memory-only cards that store e-cash in denominations of \$20 to \$100. Smart cards—with brains as well as memory—will be used as combination credit-debit-ATM-e-cash cards. They may even contain your health records, driver's license, and other personal information, as well as give you secure access to buildings, in-house networks, and intranets.

Smart cards—some 8 million

Digital Dollars: Get ready for your wallet to get a lot lighter. Smart cards will take the place of your credit cards, ATM card, checkbook, and maybe even your driver's license.

of which are already being used in Europe and Asia—are more convenient to carry than cash, and less susceptible to theft since many require a password. Next year you may be using them regularly for purchases at vending machines and gas pumps.

Smart cards are just another element of the cashless, checkless society that banks have had us slouching toward for decades. Banks

hate shuffling paper, even paper money. They love electronic banking and bill-paying programs like Intuit Quicken and Microsoft Money. Get on board these technologies and you'll help banks realize their dream of replacing most full-service branches with ATMs. You'll also reduce the number of your own trips to the ATM and eliminate laborious data-entry from your tax and

UPDATES BEST BETS AND BARGAINS

NET WAY

Get your entire NetWare network on the Internet with a single Internet protocol address and one Net account with Artisoft's \$249 i.Share 2.0. Contact Artisoft at (800) 846-9726.

Reader Service No. 601

SMALLER OFFICE

Save money with Office 97 Small Business Edition. The \$499 package comes with Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, a financial package, and more. Contact Microsoft at (800) 426-9400.

Reader Service No. 602

PLEASE HOLD

Upgrade your small-office phone network with voice mailboxes, auto attendants, and six extensions off one phone line with the \$495 Switchboard. Contact Centrepoint at (613) 725-2980.

Reader Service No. 603

CALL ME

Make calls and get your e-mail and voice mail with Navitel's TouchPhone 200. The \$299 desktop phone uses Windows CE and stores contact info as well. Contact Navitel at (415) 462-9171.

Reader Service No. 604



budget record-keeping.

That's where your PC comes in. Fischer International is shipping a smart card called Smarty. You just drop it into your floppy drive, and your computer becomes a bank ATM where you "recharge" the smart card with money from your checking account—or debit it to buy some Internet bauble. Likewise, VeriFone has a palm-size, external reader/writer called the Personal ATM that connects to a PC or a telephone line. Both are likely to be distributed by banks; but several PC and keyboard manufacturers plan to include smart-card readers in all their hardware by default.

None of these add-ons will do you much good unless financial institutions agree on a smart-card standard. But analysts are optimistic—most banks have already started down the smart-card road by offering telephone- and Web-based banking. And, to our astonishment, most smart-card vendors have already agreed on a cross-compatible Java-based card system, which means any card will work with any reader.

It's been a long time coming, but the smart card has finally arrived. Thanks to big initiatives from financial institutions and strong compatibility agreements right out of the gate, all the green lights are on. Expect to see an offer for a smart card and/or a smart-card reader stuffed into one of your bank-statement envelopes one day soon. **MH**

Contributors to Pulse: MIKE HOGAN, LIESL LA GRANGE NOBLE, and RICH SCHWERIN. Edited by JACK LYON.

Be a Video Maestro

Want to buy a **digital movie studio** in one shot?

Ulead Systems **MediaStudio Pro 5.0** packs in a lot more than just digital video editing. There's also a painting program to touch up and **add special effects** to your frames, a 32-bit audio editor, a video-capture utility, and a vector-based text tool to help you **let the credits roll**. Supply your own video-capture card, and you have all you need to be the **next DeMille, Jr.**

MediaStudio Pro 5.0 / Ulead Systems / \$595 est. street price / (800) 858-5323 / Reader Service No. 605

Uninterruptible Power Supplies

When the power goes out, so does all your unsaved work. With a battery backup, you can work right through that lightning storm without fear. Here are the least expensive UPSs we could find as of April 1.

Product	Price
Tripp Lite UP-BCP200 <i>Insight Direct</i> (800) 467-4448	\$85
APC Back UPS 200 <i>Computer Discount Warehouse</i> (800) 400-4239	\$92
Delltec PowerRite Plus 300 <i>DataComm</i> (800) 328-2261	\$100
Exide UPS 250 <i>PC's Complete</i> (800) 294-4727	\$106
Best Power Citadel 210 <i>NECX Direct</i> (800) 808-3373	\$148

Reader Service Numbers:
Insight Direct, 606; Computer Discount Warehouse, 607; DataComm, 608; PC's Complete, 609; NECX Direct, 610.

RADAR CHIPS AHOY, COAX REVISITED

What's on the scope? If a blip is near or moving toward the middle of the radar screen, check it out. If it's moving off the screen, steer clear for now.

● Closing In

● On Its Way Out

Cable, Again: In response to DSL modems, cable modem prices are dropping to \$300. We'll take one—provided cable services ever become available.

Browser Wars: Just pick one already. With Navigator and Explorer always adding new features, it's hard to keep up. Spend your time on more important things, like finding the latest Macarena Web site.

Snafus: Internet software is being developed so fast that bugs are hopping up everywhere—including accidental gateways that let hackers onto your server. Oops.

Web Potatoes: Pitch your bookmarks. The *Slash.com* of agents that deliver content right to your PC are becoming so sophisticated, you'll never have to use your mouse again.

Add-in Cards: If you have to open your PC to install it, it's too hard. If Intel has its way, your next modem, sound card, and even video player will all be part of the MMX chip anyway.

Chip Wars: You thought buying a computer was difficult before? Now there's Pentium Pro, Pentium II, K6, and a host of others. Picking the right PC is getting harder than programming your VCR.

Multiple Mailboxes: ISPs are finally going to let you keep your e-mail address, even if you change providers. Of course, that also means junk-mail purveyors will have an easier time finding you.

Reclaim Your Hard Drive

Partitioning and formatting a hard disk with Microsoft's tools is a brutish job—and the results are as permanent as death and taxes. With only these blunt instruments at hand, carving out an extra logical drive or shrinking an existing partition means backing up, using FDISK to reset partitions, reformatting the new logical drive, and restoring your data and registry settings.

Or, you can pick up a copy of PowerQuest's new PartitionMagic 3.0, which drastically reduces the time you spend performing disk-maintenance tasks—even the toughest jobs take literally minutes. For \$69 or less per copy, it's one of the biggest software bargains around.

The simplest use of PartitionMagic is to reclaim wasted disk space on systems

using the File Allocation Table (FAT) partitioning scheme by automatically resizing partitions to take advantage of smaller cluster sizes. On a 2GB drive, this can salvage 300MB of previously unavailable disk space.

If you replace a system's main hard disk, PartitionMagic makes it a painless process to copy the boot partition from the old drive to the new one, then swap the active-drive designations to boot from the new drive.

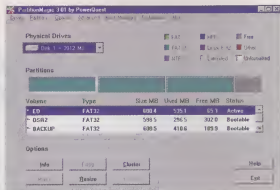
Anyone who dual-boots Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 will appreciate PartitionMagic's ability to quickly convert disk formats. It took less than five minutes to convert a 1GB partition from FAT32, which is incompatible with NT, to FAT16 or NTFS.

But is it safe? A search of newsgroups and CompuServe forums turned up only rave reviews of PowerQuest and its software. Our experience

was flawless as well. In fact, you should be far more leery of the standard backup-FDISK-reformat-restore process, especially if you're using a relatively unreliable backup medium such as QIC-80 tape.

There are a few tools that every serious NT user should own. This is one of them. Contact PowerQuest at (800) 757-5044 or (801) 226-8977.

Hungry for more inside info about Windows NT? Call (800) 223-6720, or (502) 493-3300 outside the United States, for a free sample copy of PC Computing's 32-Bit Windows Expert, edited by ED BOTT.



PartitionMagic: Bar charts display information about all partitions on the current drive. Use buttons and pull-down menus to resize or convert partitions.

NT TOOLS

SAFETY NET

Want to reduce security headaches and trim Internet access bills for a department? Download a 30-day evaluation of Microsoft's \$995 Proxy Server and funnel Internet access through a secure NT server. Setup is simple, and the payback is nearly instant. For more information visit www.microsoft.com/proxy.

PLUG AND PLAY, NT STYLE

On the road? With most notebooks, trying to run NT is about as much fun as squeezing into a center seat in the crying-babies section. Which is why we were thrilled to get an advance look at Digital Equipment's new HiNote VP 500 notebooks. With NT 4.0 and Digital's custom drivers preloaded, you get power management and hot-swapping of PC Cards. For the latest, visit www.windows.digital.com/news/archives/news66.htm.

HACK ATTACK

If you've installed Internet Information Server, determined attackers can take your site down with bogus TCP/IP connection requests to tie up a system's resources. Recent NT 4.0 service packs contain a fix. For more info, search Microsoft's Knowledge Base for article Q142641 and visit www.microsoft.com/kb.

BRIEFS NT NEWS AND TRENDS

Bug Fixes, Bonuses

Service Pack 3 was still undergoing tests as this issue went to press, but it looks like this set of patches will do more than just swat bugs. The latest beta copies of NetMeeting 2.0 and the Wolfpack clustering technology, for example, both require code found only in Service Pack 3 or later. Look for full details on Microsoft's Web site, ftp.microsoft.com/busys/winnt/winnt-public/fixes.

Less Than Zero

Zero Administration Windows sounds like a good thing, but so far it's still just a collection of downloadable demos and lofty-sounding press releases. Microsoft's latest additions include details about how administrators can lock down a NetPC so that users can't futz with desktop settings, install their own software, or (horrors!) play games. Grim details at www

microsoft.com/windows/platform/info/za/kdemo.htm.

Missed Milestones

Microsoft has quietly informed developers that Windows NT 5.0 will be delayed until the first quarter of 1998, with first betas not expected until midway or later. New features may be released as add-ons or patches, but there's no desire to slow sales of NT 4.0, which are kicking into high gear now.

Go Ahead, Shop Around. You'll Be Back.



SAG Electronics invites you to compare our file servers, workstations, RAID and storage solutions to anyone's in the industry. You'll find we offer a better value than the big guys in quality, performance, price and service. We never compromise on quality because we use only the top of the line components. In fact, our

reliability and performance earned us three Editor's Choice awards from PC Magazine in 1996. And, every one of our systems is custom built so you'll be sure to get exactly what you need, not what someone wants to sell you. So, keep this in mind while you're shopping. Once you see what's out there, we're sure you'll be back.

AWARDS



September 24, 1996
SAG STA Pentium
Pro 200



February 20, 1996
SAG STF 166 Pentium



February 20, 1996
SAG STF 150 Pentium

STA QUAD PRO 200MHz STA DUAL PRO HIGH SMP PENTIUM II DUAL 233 MHz POWER DUAL P6 200MHz

2 Pentium Processors,
Expandable to 4

64MB ECC 4 way Interleaved
Memory to 1GB

Slots: (4) PCI, (4) ISA

Adaptor: 2940 I/O

9.1GB 7200 RPM Ultra Wide HD

Sony 16x CD-ROM

Imagine 128 4MB VRAM Video
Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse

12 Bay Tower, 450 Watt Power

\$7653

77GB Ultra Wide RAID 5 Solution

\$12564

Built-in Expandability with SMP

1 Intel Pentium Pro 200MHz
Processor, Expandable to 2 CPUs

Slots: (4) PCI, (3) ISA

4-8GB of SDRAM Expandable
to 768MB

160MB 7200 RPM VRAM Video 3D

IBM 4.3GB 10E HD (9.5sec)

SB 32 PNP Sound and Speakers

Sony 16x CD-ROM

Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse

Windows NT Workstation

HotSwap Case, 230 Watts

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4.4GB Ultra Wide One Solution

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Intel Pentium II 233 MHz Processor
512K Cache Upgradeable to 2 CPUs

4-8GB of EDO RAM Expandable to 1GB
ECC Supported

Slots: (5) PCI, (4) ISA

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4.5 GB 7200 RPM Ultra Wide
Removable HD

Sony 16x CD-ROM

Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse

300 Watt Tower Case

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Alpha 500 Solution

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1 Intel Pentium Pro 200MHz SMP
Processor Upgradeable to 2 CPUs

64MB of SDRAM EDO RAM
Expandable to 1GB ECC Supported

Slots: (5) PCI, (4) ISA

Sony 12x CD-ROM

4.5GB 7200 RPM Ultra Wide
Removable HD (5.7sec) S1 34601w

Symmetric Cluster MAX 6MB Video
Client Chip Designed for
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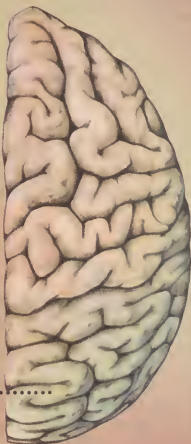
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ELECTRONICS
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CHOICE.

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Analytical left brain.

Hard to fully
experience life without
the right brain.



Creative right brain.



Eyes and ears rejoice to
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Subwoofer and speakers
with Bass Boost so you
can crank it up.

Exceptional online support
whenever you need it
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Intel Pentium processor
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for incredible multimedia.

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Hard to fully experience
MMX™ technology
without the right display.



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with MMX
technology.

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Trinitron multimedia
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Picture Enhancement
and Bass Boost.

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with over 30 pre-installed
software titles.

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Enhancement (GPE) makes
things perfectly clear.

New 17" Trinitron®
multimedia display with 16.0" VIS*
delivers the big picture.

Get it together, and
maximize your MMX
technology experience.

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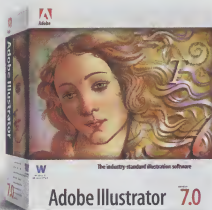
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Just look what's possible now that new Adobe Illustrator 7.0 for Windows is here. And for a limited time it's as low as \$249 (*after \$50 rebate*) if you have CorelDRAW™, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe PageMaker, Micrografx® Designer, Macromedia® Freehand™, Canvas™ or ClarisDraw®. Get it now at your favorite place to buy software. Offer expires 9/1/97. For more information, call 800-649-3875, extension 31916.

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Circle 265 on reader service card.

A-List

Editors' top picks in 100 hardware, software, and Internet categories. Edited by Wendy Taylor and Kyla K. Carlson



DESKTOP SYSTEMS

Top Pick

High-Performance Pentium
Dell Dimension XPS M200s

High-Performance Pentium II
Gateway G6-266 Multimedia

Desktop Workhorse
Micron Millennia MXE P166

Low-Cost Desktop PC
Compaq Presario 2100

SOHO System
Gateway 2000 P5-200 Family PC with MMX Technology

Pricewise Direct System
CyberMax PowerMax A53 200MMX

The Buzz

The wait is over: Dell's 200MHz Pentium gains an MMX chip and an Iomega Zip drive. We want it yesterday.

One of the first 266MHz Pentium II's is also one of the best ways to run NT. Check it out.

The sweet spot for systems: The speed you crave at a price you can't resist. Great software bundle, too.

The first shot in the next round of PC price wars: Compaq's newest is a fully loaded 133MHz system for \$1,300. We'll take two.

A powerful system that keeps your home office humming and your kids entertained. Includes four MMX titles.

Faster than any 200MHz MMX Pentium—for hundreds less. Watch your back, Intel.

The Stats*

\$2,749, 200MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB SDRAM, 3.2GB hard drive, 12X CD-ROM. (800) 388-8542. See May 1997, page 181.

\$3,338, 266MHz Pentium II, 64MB RAM, 6.4GB hard drive, 16X CD-ROM. (800) 846-2000. See this issue, page 90.

\$2,099, 166MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB EDO RAM, 3.1GB hard drive, Iomega Zip drive. (800) 393-8876. Stay tuned.

\$1,298, 133MHz Cyrix, 24MB EDO RAM, 2GB hard drive, 8X CD-ROM. (800) 345-1518. See May 1997, page 101.

\$2,514, 200MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB RAM, 3.8GB hard drive, 12X CD-ROM. (800) 846-2000. See May 1997, page 182.

\$2,199, 200MHz AMD-K6, 32MB SDRAM, 4.2GB hard drive. (800) 345-9065. See this issue, page 103.



SERVERS

Top Pick

High-Performance Web Server
Digital Equipment AlphaServer 1000A/Systems 5/333

Small Workgroup Server
Digital ProRIS XL Server 5133

Large Workgroup Server
Hewlett-Packard NetServer LH Pro

The Buzz

Break through Web gridlock: Serve up your NT site at warp speed with this 333MHz rocket.

Be the office hero. Get top-flight network performance without blowing the company budget.

The server to get when your network can never, ever afford to go down.

The Stats*

\$10,995, 333MHz Alpha, 64MB RAM, RAID storage. (800) 332-4636. See Jan. 1997, page 127.

\$2,200, 133MHz Pentium, 32MB RAM, 4X CD-ROM. (800) 344-4825. See Jan. 1997, page 127.

\$9,471, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 64MB RAM, four 2.1GB Ultra SCSI drives. (800) 533-1333 ext. 2185. See Feb. 1997, page 80.

Old Faithful: Intel's Pentium II brings MMX to NT, but it doesn't put the Pentium Pro out to pasture as a server CPU. Coming soon: 600MHz Alphas.



PORTABLE SYSTEMS

Top Pick

Portable Desktop Replacement
Micron TransPort XPE

Lightweight Traveling Companion
IBM ThinkPad 560

Low-Cost Portable
Compaq Presario 1060

The Buzz

When only the most powerful portable will do: Micron's newest has an MMX Pentium and a 12.1-inch high-res display.

Thinner than your wallet and wired for sound. And did we mention the beautiful high-res 12.1-inch screen?

Designed for the home, but at home in the office.

The Stats*

\$4,399, 166MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB RAM, 2.1GB hard drive, modem. (888) 733-9513. See Feb. 1997, page 72.

\$4,399, 133MHz Pentium, 8MB RAM, 2.1GB hard drive. (800) 426-2968. See Jan. 1997, page 128.

\$1,199, 120MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 6X CD-ROM drive. (800) 345-1518. Stay tuned.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

Some people are more versatile than others.

Fortunately, some notebooks are more versatile than others, too.

Are you often called on to do the job of five people? If so, you're precisely the kind of person who can benefit from an NEC Versa™ notebook. Take the Versa 6050, for example. Thanks to its patented VersaBay™ slot with interchangeable components, you can customize the exact notebook you need, when you need it. So let's say you want to get some work done on an airplane. Simply add an additional battery. Need space to download large documents? Just slide in the extra hard drive.

You can even watch a movie by adding the 10X CD-ROM reader.

The top-of-the-line Versa 6200 offers all that, and more. In addition to its VersaBay slot, it boasts a huge 13.3" display (the largest available in a notebook), making it perfect for presentations or viewing and working with large amounts of information.

The Versa 2600, on the other hand, provides you with versatility in an entirely different way. With its built-in CD-ROM, hard drive, floppy and battery, the 2600 ensures that, no matter what your computing needs, everything you need is always at your fingertips. You see, every Versa notebook is designed to provide you with the utmost in versatility.

After all, you play different roles during the course of a day. Shouldn't your notebook be able to do the same?

- ▶ 150MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology
- ▶ 12.1" XGA or SVGA display
- ▶ 2.1GB or 1.44GB hard drive
- ▶ 16MB RAM upgradeable to 80MB
- ▶ 10X CD-ROM
- ▶ Full-screen MPEG video support
- ▶ 32-bit PC CardBus and Zoomed video support
- ▶ Internal 33.6Kbps data/fax/voice modem
- ▶ VersaBay capability
- ▶ Desktop docking station (opt.)



NEC Versa 6050

- ▶ 166MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology
- ▶ 13.3" XGA color display (1024 x 768)
- ▶ 3.0GB or 2.1GB removable hard disk drive
- ▶ 32MB EDO DRAM upgradeable to 128MB
- ▶ 10X CD-ROM
- ▶ Full-screen MPEG video support
- ▶ 16-bit 3D stereo sound and speakers
- ▶ 32-bit PC CardBus and Zoomed video support
- ▶ VersaBay capability
- ▶ Desktop docking station (opt.)



NEC Versa 6200

- ▶ 133MHz Pentium Processor or 150MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology
- ▶ 12.1" TFT or DSTN color display
- ▶ Built-in 10X CD-ROM, floppy and battery
- ▶ 1.44GB removable hard disk drive upgradeable to 2.0GB
- ▶ 16MB EDO DRAM upgradeable to 80MB; 256K L2 Cache
- ▶ Full-screen MPEG video support
- ▶ 16-bit stereo sound and speakers
- ▶ 33.6Kbps data/fax modem PC card (150MHz models)



NEC Versa 2600

Versatile notebooks for versatile people.™

Circle 219 on reader service card.







TRACEY ULLMAN
impersonator



NEC

PORTABLE SYSTEMS continued

Top Pick

Traveling Multimedia Portable
Dell Latitude XPI CD P150ST

Handheld Portable

U.S. Robotics PalmPilot Professional

The Buzz

Takes a licking and keeps on ticking. A PC Computing torture-test survivor three years running.

So much fun to use you'll actually take it with you. Fits in your coat pocket, too.

The Stats*

\$4,099, 150MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 2.1GB hard drive. (800) 388-8542. See Apr. 1997, page 152.

\$399, 1MB RAM, backlit display, 5.7 ounces. (800) 881-7256. See May 1997, page 88.

Photo Finish: Make all your documents rise to the top of the pile. Today's color printers are so affordable you'll be fishing for excuses to print in color.

PRINTERS

Top Pick

Low-Cost Desktop Laser Printer
NEC Technologies SuperScript 860

High-Speed Desktop Laser Printer
Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 6P

High-Speed Network Laser Printer
Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5Si Mopier

Multifunction Printer/Fax/Copier
Hewlett-Packard OfficeJet 500

Desktop Color Printer
Epson Stylus Color 800

Low-Cost Network Color Printer
Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 1600CM

High-Speed Network Color Printer
Lexmark Int'l Optra C Pro

Photo-Quality Color Printer
Tektronix Phaser 450

The Buzz

What are you waiting for? At under \$400, this desktop laser is a steal.

The ultimate low-maintenance relationship: Just plug it in and it works. Great paper-handling options, too.

It prints, it sorts, and it staples at speeds close to your \$20,000 copy machine.

Who needs an office manager? HP's OfficeJet prints, scans, faxes, and copies pages for you.

The perfect partner for your digital camera: Epson's latest produces photo-quality prints that rival those from a FotoMat.

The cheapest way to give everyone on the network color output. It's fast, too.

It's just like having a high-speed professional color press on the premises—for only 17 cents per page.

Need the best photographic output money can buy? With outstanding color matching and workgroup support, this is your printer.

The Stats*

\$399, 8 ppm, 600 dpi. (800) 632-4636. See Apr. 1997, page 177.

\$799 list, 8 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL 6, infrared port. (800) 527-3753 ext. 2249. See Apr. 1997, page 177.

\$9,549, 24 ppm, 3,100-page capacity, 420MB disk drive. (800) 752-0900. See Dec. 1996, page 106.

\$499, 600-dpi black and up to 600-by-300-dpi color, 300-dpi scanning. (800) 752-0900. Stay tuned.

\$449, 1,440-by-720-dpi color and black, 7-ppm color, 8-ppm black. (800) 463-7766. See May 1997, page 90.

\$1,999, ink-jet, 4-ppm color, 9-ppm black. (800) 752-0900. See Nov. 1996, page 196.

\$5,799, laser, 3-ppm color, 12-ppm black. (800) 358-5835. See Nov. 1996, page 196.

\$6,995 list, dye-sublimation, 300-dpi, 16MB RAM. (800) 835-6100. Stay tuned.

STORAGE

Top Pick

Hard Drive
Seagate Medalist Pro 2520

Removable Storage
Iomega Jaz Drive

CD-ROM Drive
Panasonic 10X Big 5

The Buzz

All the storage you need, and then some. It's fast, too.

In the future we'll carry our PCs in our pockets. In the meantime, this is the best way to take your data with you.

Stop the CD shuffle! Get a five-disc, ten-speed CD changer for the price of a single-disc drive.

The Stats*

\$250, Fast ATA-3 interface, 2.5GB capacity. (800) 732-4283. See May 1997, page 92.

\$399 internal, \$499 external, SCSI-2 or EIDE interface. (800) 246-8342. See Jan. 1997, page 184.

\$249, EIDE interface, ten-speed changer, holds five discs. (800) 742-8088. See this issue, page 245.

Fast Lane: PCs based on Intel's TX motherboard chip set add support for the superfast Ultra-IDE bus. Watch for Ultra-IDE drives to appear by fall.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE



Increase Your Storage Capacity While Maintaining World Class Speed.

Register to win FREE backpack products at Spring COMDEX -Booth #M6135



Transfers data 3 times faster than other portables.

It's a clear-cut victory for the backpack 8000t, the fastest tape backup system in the field. It has a big 8GB capacity, and it's portable. This powerful drive transfers data at up to 30MB per minute. That's 3 times faster than you'll find elsewhere. Using a single



Soaks up twice as much data as a TR-3 drive.

Travan TR-4 tape, backup your large hard drives in record time. But that's not all. Installation is a breeze. Plug the backpack 8000t into your printer port and your printer into the backpack. There are no expensive card options to deal with.

Then unplug and take it with you to backup data on other PCs. The backpack 8000t gives great performance at a price well under external DAT drives.

Now that's what you call a winner!



Plugs into any standard printer port. Share data between portables, desktops and laptops.

Free
Travan™ TR-4
Tape with purchase.
(Limited Time Offer)



backpack
8000t

MicroSolutions
The port-ability leader.

Ph: 800-298-1214 (US and Canada)
or 815-756-3411, Fax: 815-756-2928
Internet: www.micro-solutions.com
Circle 151 on reader service card.

STORAGE continued

Top Pick

CD-Recordable Drive

Creative Labs Blaster CD-R 4210

Network Storage

MegaDrive Systems Enterprise E-8

The Buzz

Easy and inexpensive CD publishing. Doubles as a quad-speed CD-ROM drive, too.

Don't let a dead hard drive take your business down with it. This is bulletproof backup and storage for your network.

The Stats*

\$499 internal, \$640 external, SCSI interface, 4X CD-ROM reader. (800) 998-5227 ext. 135. See this issue, page 245

\$13,999, 36GB RAID array, four 9.1GB hard drives. (800) 664-6342. See Jan. 1997, page 135.



PERIPHERALS

Top Pick

Personal Document Scanner

Visioneer PaperPort Strobe

Graphics Scanner

Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 5pse

Digital Camera

Olympus D-300L

Sound Card

Creative Labs Sound Blaster Awe64 Gold

Speakers

Eminent Technology LFT-11

UPS

American Power Conversion Back-UPS Office

Input Device

Microsoft IntelliMouse

The Buzz

The ultimate way to tame that paper in-box. Fast, easy to use, and now there's even color.

Hassle-free scanning with a simple push of a button, and it's loaded to the gills with great software.

Your trusty point-and-shoot camera goes digital with stunning results.

Makes games so real you'll duck when bullets sing by your head. Oh yeah, it's great for business multimedia, too.

Is it live, or is it a pair of LFT-11's? Sound is so clean it's almost eerie.

Don't count on lightning not striking twice—be prepared when it does with a backup battery and a surge protector.

Do more with your mouse: Scroll through Office 97 documents and zip around Web pages with this mouse's thumbwheel.

The Stats*

\$319, 300 by 600 dpi, OCR, image-editing, and document-management software. (800) 787-7007 ext. 114. Stay tuned.

\$399, 24-bit, 300 dpi (1,200-dpi enhanced), (800) 722-6538. See May 1997, page 96

\$899, 6MB flash RAM, 1,024 by 768 resolution. (800) 347-4027. See Mar. 1997, page 78

\$199, 64-voice. (800) 998-5227 ext. 135. See May 1997, page 103

\$599, speakers, receiver-amplifier, and subwoofer. (904) 575-5655. See Jan. 1997, page 136

\$149, 250-VA UPS, phone-line protection. (888) 289-2722 ext. 8012. See Dec. 1996, page 61

\$85. (800) 426-9400. See Nov. 1996, page 173.



VIDEO HARDWARE

Top Pick

High-Resolution 20- or 21-Inch Monitor

Samsung Electronics America SyncMaster 21GLs

High-Resolution 17-Inch Monitor

Wyse Technology Wysevision WY-17PS

High-Resolution 15-Inch Monitor

NEC Technologies MultiSync M500

Flat-Panel Display

NEC Technologies MultiSync LCD2000

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

The Buzz

Picture this: More Windows per square inch and razor-sharp text. This is one upgrade that pays for itself.

The best-looking new 17-inch display is also one of the best deals going.

An affordable way to give the whole office a better view of Windows.

Glimpse the future on your desk with NEC's eye-popping 20.1-inch flat-panel display. Emits zero radiation, too.

The Stats*

\$1,649, 21-inch, 1,600 by 1,200 pixels at 75Hz, Plug and Play. (800) 933-4110. See May 1997, page 191.

\$799, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 86Hz, Plug and Play. (800) 438-9973. See May 1997, page 191

\$399, 1,024 by 768 pixels at 75Hz. (800) 632-4636. Stay tuned

\$8,000, 0.31 pixel pitch, 20.1 inches, 8.5-inch depth, 1,280 by 1,024 resolution at 75Hz. (800) 632-4636. See Apr. 1997, page 79.

3-D for Free: Why settle? Today's Windows accelerators have it all: high resolution, photorealistic color, and onboard 3-D acceleration.

New
PressWriter™

Broderbund

5 min. for a flyer that
picks a garage sale

10 min. for a letter with
an actual letterhead

20 min. for a
newsletter that
actually gets read

10 min. for a résumé
that does the job

15 min. to bang
out your marketing
brochure



Ding!



Introducing The Print Shop® PressWriter™

Time your success with The Print Shop PressWriter, the newest product in the award-winning The Print Shop line. Now you can create great-looking newsletters, brochures and much more. With over 125 pre-designed layouts, more than 5,000 graphics, and 100-plus TrueType™ fonts, it's so easy. Time's up.* Visit us at www.broderbund.com/PrintShop

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*Actual time to create your documents may vary.

Circle 208 on reader service card.

VIDEO HARDWARE continued

Top Pick

Graphics Accelerator
Matrox Graphics Millennium

3-D Graphics Accelerator

Creative Labs 3D Blaster PCI

Video-Capture Card

Miro Computer Products miroVideo DC20

Presentation Projector

In Focus LitePro 620

The Buzz

Pedal-to-the-metal Windows acceleration and onboard 3-D to boot. We'll take it.

Get in the game with Creative Labs' ultrafast 3-D games accelerator.

Turn your home videos into art—or at least give them titles and transitions.

Make 'em sit up and listen. In Focus's projector turns your presentations into larger-than-life multimedia light shows.

The Stats*

\$219, 4MB WRAM, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 100Hz, PCI interface. (800) 563-4353. See Jan. 1997, page 133.

\$199, 4MB EDO DRAM, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 75Hz. (800) 998-5227 ext. 135. See Apr. 1997, page 80.

\$699, 640 by 480 resolution, 60 fps. (800) 474-6476. See Feb. 1997, page 280.

\$8,999 list, 21 pounds, 800 by 600 SVGA resolution. (800) 294-6400. See Feb. 1997, page 78.

Well-Connected: Ready to jump in the 56K fast lane? Consider this: Send any modem to Hayes, and you can trade it in for a 56K model for just \$99.

COMMUNICATION HARDWARE

Top Pick

High-Speed Fax Modem
Practical Peripherals
Practical External 336 with Voice

Desktop Videoconferencing

U.S. Robotics Bigpicture Video Kit

ISDN Adapter

U.S. Robotics DataBurst ISDN 128K

LAN Adapter

3Com Fast EtherLink XL PCI 10/100 Network Interface Card

PC Card Modem

Motorola Montana 33.6

PC Card LAN Adapter

Xircom CreditCard Ethernet 10/100-Ready

The Buzz

Fast on the Net and easy on your wallet, plus support for faxing and voice mail. Coming soon: a 56Kbps upgrade.

Meet face-to-face without flying coast-to-coast. Everything you need to turn your PC into a videophone.

External ISDN terminal adapter that'll blow you away, with a parallel-port connection to break the serial-port bottleneck.

Boost your network performance without breaking the bank.

Montana—the state without speed limits—is also the name of Motorola's 33.6Kbps PC Card modem. And with good reason.

No problem connecting your laptop to your Ethernet network with Xircom's CreditCard: Get 10Mbps or 100Mbps on the fly.

The Stats*

\$149, external, 33.6Kbps maximum speed, fax, voice mail. (800) 225-4774. See Mar. 1997, page 181.

\$399, 33.6Kbps modem, 24-bit, full-color NTSC video card, NTSC color camera. (800) 342-5877. See May 1997, page 292.

\$260, external, parallel-port connection, three front-panel LED indicators. (800) 877-2677. See Apr. 1997, page 291.

\$116, 10Mbps or 100Mbps. (800) 638-3266. See Jan. 1997, page 140.

\$199, optional cellular connectivity, 33.6Kbps data, 14.4Kbps fax. (800) 427-2624. Stay tuned.

\$169, PC Card type II slot, RJ-45 jack, two LED status indicators. (800) 438-4526. See Mar. 1997, page 78.

DESKTOP APPLICATIONS

Top Pick

Software Suite
Microsoft Office 97

Word Processor

Microsoft Word 97

Spreadsheet

Microsoft Excel 97

The Buzz

An irresistible upgrade to the world's best-selling business application suite. It's chock-full of Internet smarts, too.

The standard for businesses everywhere. WordPerfect aficionados: Watch for an update to Corel WordPerfect Suite.

It's a one-horse race and guess who's winning? Even Lotus's recent upgrade of 1-2-3 can't unseat this business favorite.

The Stats*

\$499 for Standard Edition, \$599 for Professional Edition, Windows 95 or NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.

\$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.

\$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

ISDN/V.34 128 KBPS / 33.6 KBPS UNDER \$600

At last you can have the best of both worlds – a V.34 33.6 Kbps modem with V.42 bis data compression and a 128 Kbps ISDN digital modem in a single PC Card (PCM CIA).

With Digi International's DataFire GO!™ Series ISDN/V.34 combination PC Card, notebook computer users can

now connect to ISDN at home and V.34 on the road – all with a single PC Card. As a result, high-speed remote connections to corporate LANs or the Internet have never been easier or more affordable.



Digi combines ISDN and V.34 with the DataFire GO! PC Card for users of Windows notebooks.

DataFire GO! ISDN/V.34

PC Card features a built-in NT1, Multilink PPP, and free software for Internet access, Internet phone support and 14.4 fax support. All of that and more make the DataFire GO! PC Card the perfect complement for busy

notebook users on the go!

So call Digi at

1-800-228-9167 or visit us on the Web at www.dgii.com for more facts about the DataFire GO! PC Card and our full line of remote access solutions.

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Call (613) 943-9020 in North America, +49 221 920 52 0 in Europe, and +65 732 1318 in Asia. Find us on the Internet at <http://www.dgii.com>. All brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. ©1997 Digi International. All rights reserved.

EVEN BEFORE THE MMX™ PC MAGAZINE DECLARED



Featured Computer Artist: Diane Fenster

NOW WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY. Ever since the news came out about the new Intel® Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, savvy computer folk have been racing to get hold of it. After all, it's the best and fastest Pentium chip yet. MMX technology works wonders with multimedia, turns video into a life-changing experience, and even delivers richer Internet content. But which computer to buy? Well...ours. At least that's what *PC Magazine* thinks. In their review of twelve 200MHz systems, the Dell Dimension XPS M2000s just won an Editor's Choice award for best business PC, and was named a price/performance leader. And in *PC Computing's* survey, the XPS – which they called "a multimedia powerhouse outfitted for business" – was judged the top performer (see graph). What can this mean? Probably just that in MMX technology, as in everything else, the race goes to the swift.



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TECHNOLOGY RACE BEGAN, A WINNER.

PC Magazine Editors' Choice Award
Dell Dimension XPS M200s
2/4/97

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS Pro200n 200MHz PENTIUM® PRO PROCESSOR

- Mini Tower Model
- ★ **64MB EDO Memory with ECC**
- 256KB Internal L2 Cache
- ★ **NEW 6.4GB Hard Drive with 512KB Cache (9.5ms)**
- NEW 1000HS Trinitron® Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., 26dp)
- Matrox Millennium 4MB WRAM Video Card
- ★ **NEW 16X Variable EIDE CO-ROM Drive**
- AWE32 Wave Table Sound Card
- 33.6 U.S. Robotics Telephony Modem
- Altec ACS-490 Full Dolby® Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB IDE Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
- ★ **MS® Office 97 Small Business Edition**
- MS Windows® 95/MS IntelliMouse
- 3 Year Limited Warranty* with 1 Year On-site* Service
- ★ **Upgrade to 128MB EDO Memory with ECC, add \$359.**

\$3499

Business Lease: \$129/Mo.
Order Code #500518

DELL DIMENSION XPS M200s 200MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY

- Mini Tower Model
- ★ **32MB SDRAM Memory**
- 512KB Single Bank Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.2GB Hard Drive (12ms)
- 1000HS Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., 26dp)
- Matrox Millennium 4MB WRAM Video Card
- ★ **NEW 16X Variable EIDE CO-ROM Drive**
- Sound Blaster 16 WaveSynth Wavetable Sound
- Altec ACS-290 Speakers with Subwoofer
- ★ **33.6 U.S. Robotics Telephony Modem**
- Iomega Zip 100MB IDE Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
- ★ **MS Office 97 Small Business Edition**
- MS Windows 95/MS IntelliMouse
- 3 Year Limited Warranty with 1 Year On-site Service

\$2899

Business Lease: \$107/Mo.
Order Code #500505

DELL DIMENSION XPS M166s 166MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Mini Tower Model
- ★ **32MB SDRAM Memory**
- 512KB Single Bank Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.2GB Hard Drive (12ms)
- 800HS Trinitron Monitor (13.7" v.i.s.)
- Matrox Millennium 4MB WRAM Video Card
- ★ **NEW 16X Variable EIDE CO-ROM Drive**
- Sound Blaster 16 WaveSynth Wavetable Sound
- Altec ACS-290 Speakers with Subwoofer
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
- ★ **MS Office 97 Small Business Edition**
- MS Windows 95/MS IntelliMouse
- 3 Year Limited Warranty with 1 Year On-site Service
- ★ **Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$239.**
- ★ **Upgrade to a 4.3GB Hard Drive (9.5ms), add \$75.**

PICTURED SYSTEM

\$2199

Business Lease: \$81/Mo.
Order Code #050503

NEW DELL DIMENSION M200s 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Mini Tower Model
- ★ **16MB SDRAM Memory**
- 512KB Single Bank Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.2GB Hard Drive (12ms)
- 800HS Trinitron Monitor (13.7" v.i.s.)
- 2MB EDO VIRGE 3D Video
- 12X EIDE CO-ROM Drive
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
- ★ **MS Office 97 Small Business Edition**
- MS Windows 95/MS Mouse
- 3 Year Limited Warranty with 1 Year On-site Service
- ★ **Upgrade to 32MB SDRAM, add \$119.**
- ★ **Upgrade to a 17LS Monitor (15.7" v.i.s.), add \$175.**
- ★ **33.6 U.S. Robotics Telephony Modem, add \$109.**
- ★ **3Com® 3C905 Fast EtherLink™ XL 10/100 PCI Card, add \$109**
- ★ **Sound Blaster 16 Pro Sound Card and Altec ACS-90 Speakers, add \$99.**
- ★ **Upgrade to a 104-Key Performance Keyboard, add \$29.**

\$1999

Business Lease: \$74/Mo.
Order Code #510502

— ★★★★★ PC Computing 2/97 —

Mach-Speed PC's

Windows Application Performance

Dell Dimension XPS M200s

23% Faster

Micron Millennium MXE

18% Faster

Gateway 2000 PS-200PC

17% Faster

Baseline

NOTE: WINDOWS IS A TEST THAT RANKS 15 OF THE MOST POPULAR 32-BIT WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

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Sun 12pm-5pm CT. In Canada call 800-233-0750
GSA Contract #G3-35F-4076D

Keyword #02213

DESKTOP APPLICATIONS *continued*

Top Pick

Database
Microsoft Access 97

The Buzz

Lotus's \$109 **Approach 97** is easier to use, but only **Access 97** lets you publish live data to the Web. It's also faster.

The Stats*

\$399, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 12MB to 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Mar. 1997, page 171.



FINANCE SOFTWARE

Top Pick

Personal Finance Manager
Intuit Quicken Deluxe 6 for Windows

The Buzz

Get branch-office checking right from your hard drive; handles retirement planning and investment tracking, too.

The Stats*

\$60, 386 CPU, 16MB RAM, 20MB hard disk space. (800) 624-8742. See Dec. 1996, page 100.

Business Accounting
Intuit QuickBooks 5.0

An accountant that's easy to talk to, affordable, and always up-to-date. Also lets you do your banking online.

\$99, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 34MB hard disk space. (800) 446-8848. See Feb. 1997, page 90.

Stock and Portfolio Manager
E*Trade Group E*Trade

Don't spend a fortune trying to make one by playing the market. This broker's on call 24 hours a day.

\$14.95 per trade for up to 5,000 shares. (800) 786-2573. See Jan. 1997, page 155.



NETWORK SOFTWARE

Top Pick

Network Operating System
Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0

The Buzz

At last! The first honest-to-goodness cross-platform operating system that's secure, stable, and easy to use.

The Stats*

\$809 (NT Server with five clients). (800) 429-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 185.

Groupware
Novell GroupWise 5

Your quest for the universal in-box is over. Groupwise is cross-platform, easy to use—and even handles your voice mail.

\$525 per server with five clients. Windows 95. (800) 453-1267. See Jan. 1997, page 165.

Group Scheduler
Microsoft Outlook 97

One of the best reasons to upgrade to Microsoft Office 97. Keep tabs on your schedule—and everyone else's.

\$99 (or as part of \$499 Microsoft Office) (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.

E-mail
Qualcomm Eudora Pro 3.0

An elaborate Internet mail client for anyone who lives and dies by e-mail. MIME support is included.

\$89 single user, Windows 95 or Windows NT, Internet access. (800) 238-3672. See Jan. 1997, page 165.

LAN Management Tool
Intel LANDesk Management Suite

A network manager's dream. One utility gives you instant feedback on the network and everything connected to it.

\$750 (five nodes). (800) 538-3373. Stay tuned.



PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

Top Pick

Contact Manager
GoldMine Software GoldMine 3.2 for Windows 95 & Windows NT 4.0

The Buzz

Complete contact tracking plus mail merge, calendar with group scheduling, and more. You've never been so organized.

The Stats*

\$170, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 8MB RAM. (800) 654-3526. See Nov. 1996, page 104.

Personal Information Manager
Lotus Organizer 97

We could all use an assistant as handy and efficient as this one.

\$79, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 8MB RAM. (800) 343-5414. See Jan. 1997, page 156.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

Competitive Edge: Let your software do your dirty work and stay one step ahead of the competition with these secret business weapons.



INTRODUCING THE 98X, STAYIN' ALIVE 30% LONGER.

When you're looking for smooth, sharp, groovy letters, look no further than the new HP LaserJet 92298X maximum capacity toner cartridge. It's the next generation of HP, but still gets down with HP LaserJet series 4 & 5 printers*. And it offers the longest lasting, lowest cost per page of any HP 98 cartridge because it has 30% more toner. Which is 30% more of what keeps your letters lookin' goood. So when others quit, the 98X is stayin' alive.

For more information, call 1-800-LaserJet, ext. 2325, or visit our web site at www.hp.com/go/ljsupplies.



PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Project Manager Microsoft Project for Windows 95	Be on time. Be under budget. Be spending your bonus in the Bahamas.	\$489, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 6MB of RAM. (800) 426-9400 See Jan. 1997, page 156
Communications Software Symantec WinFax Pro 8.0	Stop feeding the fax machine! WinFax Pro lets you send and receive faxes in batches—saving you time and money.	\$99, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.5.1 or later, fax modem. (800) 441-7234. See Apr. 1997, page 105.



REFERENCE AND ENTERTAINMENT CDs

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Business Reference MyAdvancedBrochures, Mailers, & More	Design firms charge big bucks for what you can do with this easy-to-use program that helps spread the word about your business.	\$49, Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. (800) 325-3508. See Dec. 1996, page 218.
Home Reference Microsoft Bookshelf 96-97 Edition	The killer app for CD drives: essential library reference books all on one disc.	\$50, Windows 95 or Windows 3.1. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.
Game Westwood Studios Command & Conquer: Red Alert	Command & Conquer fans get new worlds to vanquish and new armies to fight in this hot add-on.	\$55, Windows 95 or DOS. (800) 874-4607 Stay tuned
Entertainment Microsoft Encarta 97 Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition	The best all-around digital encyclopedia gets splashier with an extra disc packed with new multimedia.	\$80, Windows 95, NT, or 3.1. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.



GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Presentation Graphics Microsoft PowerPoint 97	Spend less time learning the software and more time making your point. New to 97: Integrated Web publishing.	\$339, Windows 95, NT, or 3.51, 26MB to 58MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.
Personal Desktop Publisher Microsoft Publisher 97	Turns any PC into an instant vanity press. Builds instant Web pages, too.	\$80, 386 CPU, 8MB RAM, Windows 95, 6MB to 32MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Nov. 1996, page 93.
Professional Desktop Publisher Adobe Systems PageMaker 6.5	Top-of-the-line professional publishing for paper and the Web.	\$550, Windows 95 or NT, 8MB RAM, 24MB hard disk space. (800) 492-3623. See Dec. 1996, page 130.
Business Graphics CorelDraw 7	Whether you design professional ad campaigns or just like to sketch, this is the premier all-in-one graphics toolkit.	\$440 (\$200 upgrade), 486 CPU, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 772-6735. See Jan. 1997, page 94.
Personal Photo Editor Microsoft Picture It	Picture yourself actually having fun with all those old family photos that have been turning yellow in the closet.	\$55, Windows 95, 8MB RAM, 1MB VRAM, 75MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 97.
Professional Photo Editor Adobe Photoshop 4.0	A digital darkroom for your PC. New to version 4.0 are MMX hooks and built-in Web smarts.	\$549, 486 CPU, Windows 95, NT, or 3.x, 16MB RAM, 20MB hard disk space. (800) 492-3623. See Dec. 1996, page 129.
Illustration Software Adobe Illustrator 7.0	Illustrator's back, with a face-lift, improved features, and flawless integration with Macintosh files and other Adobe apps.	\$595, Windows 95 or NT, 16MB RAM, 20MB hard disk space. (800) 649-3875. See Mar. 1997, page 88.

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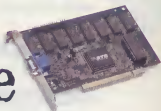
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TOOLS AND UTILITIES

Top Pick

Windows 95 System Utility

Symantec Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows 95

Windows NT System Utility

Symantec Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows NT

Antivirus Software

Symantec Norton Antivirus 2.0 for Windows 95

OCR Software

Caere OmniPage Pro 7.0

File Utility

Symantec Norton Navigator

Remote-Control Software

Traveling Software LapLink 7.5 for Windows 95

Application Development Tool

Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 Professional Edition

Safety Net: Upgrading to NT 4.0 doesn't have to hurt. Norton Utilities brings the same features you trusted in Windows 95 to the NT platform.

The Buzz

Resuscitate dead files and diagnose hardware problems before they happen. Everyone should have a copy.

Keep your servers and workstations humming with the first complete set of system utilities for Windows NT.

Stops infections before they happen, and your best bet for conquering the nasty Concept virus.

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Picks up where Windows Explorer leaves off. Includes file management, file compression, and direct Net site access.

Keep your notebook and desktop PCs on speaking terms: Sync files via a cable or dial your desktop from the road.

Visualize better custom apps. This version adds dockable toolbars and the ability to edit multiple projects at once.

The Stats*

\$79, Windows 95, 8MB RAM. (800) 441-7234. See Jan. 1997, page 161.

\$99, Windows NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 441-7234. Stay tuned.

\$50, Windows 95, 8MB RAM, 12MB free hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. See May 1997, page 110.

\$499, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 8MB RAM, 15MB hard disk space. (800) 736-5735. See Apr. 1997, page 167.

\$89, Windows 95, 4MB RAM, 6MB hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. Stay tuned.

\$149, 386 CPU, 8MB RAM, 7MB hard disk space. (800) 343-8088. See Jan. 1997, page 156.

\$499, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 30MB to 220MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.



WEB BROWSERS AND ADD-INS

Top Pick

Web Browser

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0

Browser Plug-in

Progressive Networks RealPlayer Plus 4.0

Newsgroup Reader

Anawave Gravity 1.1

Offline Browser

Traveling Software WebEx 2.0

Browse This: Netscape's Communicator one-ups Microsoft's browser in features, but it's hard to argue with free. Watch for IE 4.0 to arrive soon.

The Buzz

Microsoft's browser includes most of what you'll find in Netscape's browser suite—and it's free.

What does the Web sound like? Find out with this free browser add-in.

Get more signal and less noise from Usenet with this intelligent offline newsgroup reader.

Surf the Web on your time: Download your favorites and browse them offline without the wait.

The Stats*

Free, Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 172.

Free, Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 632-8920. See Jan. 1997, page 175.

\$30, Windows 95 or Windows NT, Internet access. (800) 711-8030. See Jan. 1997, page 110.

\$50, Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, Internet access. (800) 343-8088. See May 1997, page 134.



WEB SEARCH ENGINES AND SERVICES

Top Pick

Search Engine

Excite

Internet Utility

Quarterdeck WebCompass 2.0

Find It, Fast: AltaVista is still the fastest search engine, but Excite slips into the lead, thanks to clear categories and support for plain-English queries.

The Buzz

If you can't find it in Excite's more than 50 million pages, it probably isn't on the Web.

The ultimate personal Web librarian; ask it a question and it finds, organizes, and summarizes the answer for you.

The Stats*

Free, www.excite.com. (415) 569-2129. See Mar. 1997, page 301.

\$49, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 8MB RAM, Internet access. (800) 354-3222. See Jan. 1997, page 172.

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Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
National Online Service America Online	Still the world's most popular and useful online service. Can't stand the wait? Get a direct Web connection.	\$9.95 per month for unlimited AOL access, \$19.95 per month for unlimited access. (800) 827-6364. See Mar. 1997, page 282.
National Internet Service Provider UUNET	Get global or national hosting from the biggest, oldest, and best ISP for businesses. Just in: support for DSL.	\$30 per month, Web hosting starts at \$300 per month. (800) 258-4039. Stay tuned.
News Service PointCast Network	Custom news feeds and stock quotes delivered right to your desktop. Get it free at www.pointcast.com .	Free. Windows 95, NT, and 3.1. Internet access. (406) 253-0894. See Jan. 1997, page 172.
Financial Service Quote.com	Up-to-the-second stock quotes and expert trading advice—without the sales pitch.	\$9.95 to \$99.95 per month, Internet access. www.quote.com . Stay tuned.



WEB COMMUNICATIONS

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Internet E-mail Qualcomm Eudora Light 3.0.1	The lite version of Qualcomm's e-mail package is perfect for quick-and-dirty Internet messages. It's free too.	Free at www.eudora.com , Internet access. (800) 238-3672. See May 1997, page 140.
Internet Phone Microsoft NetMeeting 2.0	Slash your long-distance phone bills—use the Net to place calls for free.	Free. Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 426-9400. See Feb. 1997, page 133.
Internet Fax NetCentric FaxStorm	A cheap and easy way to send faxes from your PC—to anywhere in the world. It's perfect for frequent travelers.	Free download, 15 cents per minute for domestic faxes. (888) 767-9273. See Feb. 1997, page 127.
Internet Videoconferencing White Pine Software CU-SeeMe 3.0	Get face time on the Web. Just add an inexpensive camera for face-to-face meetings via the Net.	\$99, \$69 if you download. (800) 241-7463. See Feb. 1997, page 155.



WEB DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Web Publisher Microsoft FrontPage 97	Everything you need to design a Web site without writing a line of code. You supply the content, FrontPage handles the rest.	\$149, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Feb. 1997, page 102.
Web Server Software Microsoft Internet Information Server 3.0	The fastest NT Web server software we've seen. And it's free for NT Server owners.	Free for NT Server users. Windows NT 4.0, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. Jan. 1997, page 177.
Site Management Software NetObjects Fusion	Still the easiest for basic Web pages, but watch for Random Noise's soon-to-be-released Coda to do it all in Java.	\$495, 486 CPU, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 16MB RAM, 60MB hard disk space. (888) 449-6400. See Mar. 1997, page 100.
Commerce Server iCat Electronic Commerce Suite 3.0	If only setting up a real storefront were this easy or secure. iCat handles everything from page creation to order logging.	\$3,495, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.5.1, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (888) 533-8800. See May 1997, page 84.
Web Animation Software Macromedia Flash	Want to get your Web site moving without making it too big? Flash makes interactive animations in as little as 3K.	\$249, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 457-1774. Stay tuned.
Java Development Symantec Visual Café	Build applets any way you want. Get into brute-force scripting, or crank out applets in minutes using Café's visual tools.	\$199, Windows 95 or NT, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 60MB hard disk. (800) 441-7234. See Apr. 1997, page 126.

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Microsoft™ IntellMouse, 104-key keyboard

Microsoft Windows® 95 and MS® Plus! CD
Microsoft Office 97 SBE CDs
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100MB Omega Zip drive

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PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 4MB EDO RAM
Tool-free minitower or desktop
Microsoft IntellMouse, 104-key keyboard
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(comprised of MMX technology-based software)
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3.5" floppy drive
16-bit stereo sound and speakers

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Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus! CD
Microsoft Works CD
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PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 4MB EDO RAM

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Microsoft Mouse, 104-key keyboard
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus! CD
Microsoft Office 97 SBE CDs
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Source: PC World's best overall PC company for reliability and service, December 1995

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Iomega ZIP IDE drive with 100MB removable cartridge \$99
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Iomega 010 3200 (1.6/3.2GB) Travan tape backup drive with tape \$199
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HP LaserJet 6P printer \$799
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Kodak OC25 digital camera \$499
Kodak Digital Science DC50 zoom camera \$699

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APC Pro7T surge suppressor \$59
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Bull

Stop deluding yourself. The check isn't in the mail. Your vote doesn't really count. All men were not created equal. Quality is not Job 1. The meek won't inherit much. If you're in government, crime actually pays pretty well. It's all part of the Big Lie. But for flat-out, pedal-to-the-metal, high-octane fibs, nothing beats the PC world. Somebody already exposed the one about exaggerated computer screen sizes, but there's plenty more where that came from:

56K is 56K. It's not. At best it's only 53K or less, it's only 33.6K through PBXs, and it's only fast downstream.

33.6K is 33.6K. On a typical dirty line on a good day, it's maybe 24K to 26K. If you're lucky.

NT is wrong for notebooks. So it doesn't have Plug and Play or decent Power Management. Big deal. It's a real 32-bit OS with real security, not the toy that comes with Win 95.

T1 is all the bandwidth you'll need. Until everyone in your office hops on at the same time and it all clogs to a crawl.

Oops, sorry, it's cable modems that provide all the bandwidth you'll need. Ditto.

Anyway, it's all a bandwidth problem. More delays than you think are from slow servers choking under unanticipated loads.

Office 97 "Help" finally works. Same old lousy system, but with cute animated characters who sit there scratching themselves while you stew. The natural-language interface is a joke, and using the Help/Find feature produces a long list of hits as useless and frustrating as the output of a Web search engine. *Hmmm*, Bill did tell his troops to make everything Web-like, but this can't be what he meant.

Today's notebook batteries can go coast-to-coast. Of Florida maybe. For NY-LA flights, dim your screen, yank out the PC Card modem, go easy on hard-disk access, and forget about using your CD.



Paul Somerson

Bill did tell his troops to make **everything Web-like**, but this can't possibly be what he meant.

200MHz Pentiums are way better than 166s. Only if you consider a marginal speed boost "way better."

A 150MHz system is a great entry-level deal. These turkeys use a slow 60MHz bus. Some 133s, with 66MHz buses, are faster. Pony up the few extra shekels for a 166 (which also uses a 66MHz bus).

Everyone truly needs a top-of-the-line superfast system. Except for the vast majority of workers who use their PCs for word processing, e-mail, and Web surfing.

It costs \$9,784 a year to run a standard Win 95 PC. This bizarre Gartner Group figure is quoted like gospel, but it is insanely exaggerated, factoring in all sorts of bloated IT overhead, training that never happens, and self-admitted "futz factors."

The "year 2000 bug" is going to destroy the world and cost billions. Total BS from consultants who want to rake in millennial bug-fix dough. This assumes that all software will remain static for three years. Considering the rapid upgrade and replacement cycles today, if this assumption is true with your company, you're in much bigger trouble than you think.

With Windows 95 the OS is finally easy to use. Yeah, right. And there's a UFO behind Hale-Bopp, too.

OK, but the next generation of Windows will really be the one that's easy to use. Not even close.

Maybe, but someday in the future there really will be a version of Windows that's easy to use. Don't bet the farm on it.

There's more. NCs will replace PCs (in your dreams). Sixteen megs is enough, and 32 is all you'll ever need (until you actually try to get some work done). You really don't have to pick a tricky password, or change it ever (if you don't care about your data). It's a snap to reformat your drive and reinstall Windows (or push a pea across the country with your nose). Anyone can create a great Web page (that will look like everyone else's ugly, templated, static pages). Nobody is making money on the Web (except the inventive, smart ones). Yeah, and Apple will bounce back. Honest.

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Talk About Big Bucks

And on the eighth day God slapped His head and moaned, "Why did I give them tongues?"

Humans are born blabbermouths—whether through design defect or divine gift. And a few

wily Web entrepreneurs see multimillion-dollar fortunes in this foible. Ridiculous, right?

Online chat is boring and trite, at best. It is the province of dullards and the emotionally

insecure, at worst. Also, it's inescapable. More spew flows through

the Net today than through a waste-treatment plant on the outskirts of Calcutta. Show us the twit who believes he can turn a nickel on cyberchat; we'll show you a great business partner for that Kaypro PIM you've been wanting to develop.

Say What? But let's not be hasty. A hundred years ago no one believed the phone company would recoup its start-up costs. Ma Bell discovered early on America's love for yak. Today chat accounts for up to one-third of America Online's revenues. By the year 2000, chat will have consumed roughly 7.9 billion hours of online time. That's a lot of jabber.

But more interesting are the companies that see money in it. The Palace, a start-up backed by small-fries Intel and Time Warner, makes software for creating 3-D chat worlds. Over 1,000 sites already use the technology, including an obscure outfit called Fox Television. LiveWorld Productions, creators of Talk City—one of the most popular chat sites on the Web—had no trouble raising \$9 million in chump change last year. Pip-squeaks Microsoft and Netscape have built chat into their browsers and are rushing it to their sites.

So chat is popular. But how exactly do you make money from it? As droves of advertisers begin turning away from most Web venues, chat sites still draw big bucks. No wonder: Their audiences are both large and contented. Most Web surfers spend less than 7 minutes at any site before clicking to the next thrill. Chatters average 40 minutes per visit. In other words, chat turns surfers into settlers.

WebGenesis's The Globe, a chat page for 18- to 25-year-olds, has become one of the most popular



Give people a **reason**
to **linger** at your site,
and they'll invent ways
to **unload** their cash.

sites on the Web. While well-trod, big-name sites struggle to attract ad dollars from any half-legitimate organization they can find, WebGenesis teams with paid promos from the likes of AT&T, Microsoft, and Intel. America Online has just added advertising to its chat room, which could hand-deliver as much as \$500 million a year in revenues.

Ads aren't the only way to turn gab into gold. Content and commerce sites use chat to encourage repeat visits. ESPNet's SportsZone, for example, schedules times for open rap with sports personalities. Shoot the bull

with Michael Jordan, and you'll bookmark that page for life. You're also likely to be lured into tasting the other content available at the site. And don't dismiss the value of chat itself. Millions of people will pay for the privilege—especially if you create the right ambience, attract the hippest throngs, and make something more of gab-fests than dry strings of typed text.

Money Talks Find the right alchemy, and you can charge a cover. The Total Cosmic Cavern on the Total New York Web site features 2-D environments based on the Cosmic Cavern VIP lounge in Manhattan. A swank place to chill on the Web? Yes, but the Cavern also provides sponsorship opportunities including product placements—for example, a particular brand of Vodka is given prominence at the Cavern's virtual bar.

Another nightspot, Talk City, went live on the Web last April, yet it already receives about 19 million page-views a day from 70,000 users. Not a bad crowd for a joint that doesn't fret fire-code violations.

Both sites owe their popularity to ambience. But avatars, 3-D worlds, voice chat, moderators, video-conferencing, and a host of other technologies, themes, and gimmicks are remaking traditional chat. They're key to building community. Give people a reason to linger at your site, and they'll practically invent ways to unload their cash there. This has been the lesson not only of nightclubs and theme parks, but also of shopping malls, convention centers—even airport waiting areas.

Of course, online community is an ephemeral affair. Chat alone can't create it. No one is going to hang out at Proctor & Gamble's site to jaw about laundry detergent. But given the human affinity for gab, talk isn't cheap. It's a growth industry.

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Net Addiction

It's called Internet Addiction Disorder, and it's controversial in the psychiatric community.

Support groups are popping up all over the Internet, where people are moaning and groaning about spending too much time online. Mental-health professionals are cautioning people about excessive Net use. Checklists of warning signs help tell whether *you* are addicted.

Unfortunately, everything surrounding this

phenomenon seems half-baked.

There are numerous online discussions and many so-called Web-aholic sites where people ironically use the Web (the source of addiction) to confess their problems, much as they would in a 12-step program.

Many online self-tests help determine if you're addicted. The following is adapted from the National Counseling Intervention Services:

Ten Symptoms of PC Addiction

1. Can't control time on machine.
2. Lie about time spent.
3. Suffer negative consequences from time spent.
4. Compromise morals by using anonymous personae.
5. Have an overdeveloped sense of importance for the PC in your life.
6. Experience mixed feelings of euphoria and guilt from being online.
7. Become depressed when sessions are cut short by outside influences.
8. Are preoccupied with PC use.
9. Use the computer as an outlet when depressed or sad.
10. Cause financial problems from computer use.

According to NCIS, if you have any one of these symptoms, you may be addicted. If you have three, you might as well check into the nearest insane asylum. But this list seems oriented toward obsessive chat-room behavior and doesn't address true computer addiction, which is poorly understood.

Some associate Net addiction with alcoholism—a dubious analogy. According to one observer, Khang Le, "Internet addicts acquire and require an increasingly high tolerance for the Net, just as alcoholics do for alcohol. For example, most people get drunk after two or three drinks, but alcoholics need a double or triple amount to get



John C. Dvorak

If you have **these symptoms**, you might as well check into the nearest **insane asylum.**

them drunk. Similarly, Internet addicts can't just check e-mail two or three times a day or surf the Net for one or two hours like other computer users."

Kimberly Young, head of the Center for Online Addictions in New York, is quoted by Le as saying, "they become compulsive, logging on every time they walk by the computer or checking e-mail 20 or 30 times a day." Again this seems more like an obsession than an addiction.

Many analysts view the addiction as

part of a general personality disorder. They tend to describe addicts as, to put it bluntly, introverted geeks with empty lives. But anyone who, like myself, is online a lot because of my work, sees a different picture. Most Internet users are normal go-getters. And many celebrities spend lots of time online—Arsenio Hall discussed his fascination with chat rooms on the *Tonight Show*, and he certainly can't be described as an introverted geek.

I question the expert conclusions that addictive behavior is based on personality disorders. I have to wonder if a more deeply rooted mechanism—similar to the one that produces euphoria in joggers and slot-machine users—is behind Net addiction.

My thesis is that the mouse itself is the addictive mechanism. Think about it: Using a mouse is to computing what pulling a lever is to slot-machine gambling. The mouse makes you feel far more connected to your machine than typing does—it becomes an extension of yourself.

Windows Connection Also note that the sudden explosion of addictive behavior coincides with the increased use of Windows. I make this claim because of the fanatical behavior exhibited by Mac owners—the first to be introduced to the mouse. They all fell in love with their computer.

This fanaticism just recently hit the PC world. The only thing both platforms have in common is the mouse—the "new" way to interact with the computer. Sure, chat rooms come up when online addiction is discussed, but people are probably more addicted to mindless Web surfing (mouse clicking) than to chat rooms.

It's time we did some real studies on this phenomenon rather than categorize everyone who spends too much time on the computer as having a personality disorder. Now back to mindless surfing!

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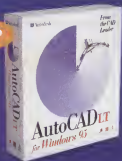


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New!

Ultrafast MMX: Pentium



In certain aboriginal parts of Borneo, tribal war chiefs may hold power for no more than three hunting seasons before they must surrender to a younger warlord—they're pushed from power before their prime. So it is with CPUs. Just as Intel's Pentium Pro begins to enjoy a commanding presence in corporations migrating to Windows NT, along comes the Pentium II: It's faster, more nimble with multimedia, and far more versatile where upgrades are concerned.

PC Computing's Labs got

an early look at nine spanking new 233MHz and 266MHz Pentium II systems. Results from our performance and usability tests should serve notice: Don't invest another cent in a Pentium Pro for the desktop. For the best Windows NT performance possible, shift to the Pentium II.

Restless Natives In business application benchmarks, Pentium II systems ran as much as 22 percent faster than the fastest Pentium Pro we've tested. The spread in performance was broad, however, and the slowest of the 233MHz systems actually

lagged behind the fastest Pentium Pro. Still, none of our benchmarks included apps recompiled for MMX, which is where the Pentium II will really shine. The actual throughput you get depends mightily on your system's memory technology, plus video and hard drive performance. Engineering matters.

The Pentium II, code-named Klamath after a roiled river in Oregon, is more than just a simple upgrade to the Pentium Pro; it's a conceptual overhaul of Intel's entire Windows NT strategy. The Pentium II retains the same core

instruction code as the Pro, but its clock speed jumps from 200MHz to 233MHz and 266MHz. And there's room to spur it faster still. In closed-door gatherings, Intel has shown experimental versions of the chip running as fast as 400MHz (and without a fire extinguisher on hand).

The Pentium II also gains the 57 MMX extensions already used in high-end versions of the Pentium chip. This should finally allay any doubts about multimedia's growing role in business computing. It demonstrates the high stakes Intel is wagering on the new



Dell Dimension XPS H266 MT



Verdict: A performance leader with solid value.

Pros: Top-drawer performance; loaded to the nines.

Cons: The Gateway costs less.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 6.4GB EIDE hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, Iomega Zip drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$3,999 est. street price
Dell Computer Corp.
(800) 388-8542
Reader Service No. 619

Digital Celebris GL-2 ST



Verdict: A high-end workstation with room to grow.

Pros: Can take two CPUs; SCSI hard drive; networking features.

Cons: High price; 233MHz chip.

Features As Tested: 233MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, integrated 10Base-T/100Base-TX, 17-inch monitor.

\$6,796 est. street price
Digital Equipment Corp.
(800) 722-9332
Reader Service No. 620

Hewlett-Packard HP Vectra VL 6/266



Verdict: An excellent high-end corporate workhorse.

Pros: Doesn't skimp on extras; priced to sell.

Cons: The Compaq is faster.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4.6GB EIDE hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, 17-inch monitor.

\$4,066 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 752-0900

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLDO TOSELO

Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

Excellent Market leader that offers exceptional performance	★★★★★
Good Excels in many areas; a good buy	★★★★
Acceptable Average for its class; a justifiable purchase	★★★
Poor Out-of-date or substandard; offset by some positive features	★★
Unacceptable Missing necessary features; avoid	★

II Upstages the Pro



Gateway G6-266 Multimedia



Verdict: The best way to run Windows NT.

Pros: Barn-burning performance; superb dollar value.

Cons: None.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 6.4GB EIDE hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, Iomega Zip drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$3,349 est. street price
Gateway 2000
(800) 846-2000
Reader Service No. 621

technology, despite slow acceptance of MMX among software developers. The Pentium II may well provide the impetus developers have been waiting for to recompile their apps to take advantage of MMX.

The chip's packaging is also entirely new—partly to reduce costs, and partly to provide system makers with a wider range of alternatives in motherboard design and upgrades. It comes in a metal and plastic-encased card dryly called a single-edge-contact (SEC) cartridge. It's about as wide as a Nintendo cartridge but with half the depth.

Unlike the Pentium Pro, the L2 cache on the Pentium II is separate from the chip itself. This is where the cost savings come in—but it's also where the chip takes a performance hit. The Pentium II's L2 cache runs at half the speed of the processor—far less efficient than the Pentium Pro's on-board cache, which runs at the

same speed as the processor. To compensate for this performance lag, Intel raised the chip's L1 cache from 16K to 64K. Company officials claim that while cache-to-CPU calls are less efficient on the Pentium II, the larger cache size more than compensates.

The SEC packaging lets Intel ramp up the speed of the CPU without having to integrate ever-faster (and ever-costlier) SRAM caches. It reduces electrical emissions typical of high-speed CPUs. And, not coincidentally, it sends AMD and Cyrix back to the drawing board to come up with cloned packaging for their high-end CPUs without infringing on Intel's patents—including patents on the Pentium Pro and Pentium II bus, which are protected by Intel.

The new packaging lets system makers easily retrofit existing Pentium Pro motherboards with a single connector. As SEC cards adopt faster CPUs,

faster caches, and new cache interfaces, system makers don't have to invest a penny in motherboard redesigns. The result: New versions of the Pentium II will trundle to market far faster than any previous CPU in the Intel family, and prices of Pentium II systems will drop equally as fast. By the end of this year, Pentium II PCs should cost less than current Pentium Pros.

Old Pro Does Intel's latest and greatest put the 200MHz Pentium Pro out to pasture? Hardly. Pentium II systems support only two CPUs. The faster cache on the Pentium Pro and its support for up to four CPUs make it an ideal platform for servers. On the other hand, Intel does not plan to raise the Pentium Pro's current clock speed above 200MHz; the chip has clearly reached the apex of its career.

Don't expect to see the Pentium II in portables, either. Its ravenous power demands and

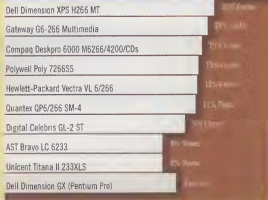
unusual packaging forbid it. A mobile version of the chip, code-named Deschutes, is expected to arrive by early next year. The first versions will probably run at 300MHz. By the time it arrives, Windows NT may finally support power management, which it now lacks.

The plain-Jane Pentium shows plenty of life as well. It's currently the only solution for portable PCs, thanks to its dual-voltage design. And Intel hopes the 200MHz MMX CPU will reinvigorate the consumer desktop market to avoid a replay of last year's dismal Christmas season. Prices of basic Pentium systems will continue to drop, though they've already taken their biggest spill. By year's end, the 133MHz version will probably fade away, leaving the 166MHz and 200MHz CPUs as the only heirs to that family of chips.

Let's see, we've got various flavors of the MMX Pentium,

Life at 266MHz

Windows Application Performance



NOTE: WINBENCH 3.0 IS A TEST THAT RINGS IN OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS UNDER WINDOWS 3.1 AND WINDOWS NT.

Pentium Pro Meets MMX: Even Windows NT gets a boost from Intel's new 266MHz and 233MHz Pentium II MMX chips, thanks to a bigger cache and faster clock speeds. Dollar for dollar, the 266MHz version of the chip (found in the top six systems here) delivers the best performance value.



Polywell Poly 726655



Verdict: An excellent value for tight budgets.

Pros: Irresistible price; respectable performance.

Cons: The Dell, Gateway, and Compaq are faster.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 5.1GB EIDE hard drive, 12-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$2,956 est. street price

Polywell

(800) 999-1278

Reader Service No. 62

Quantex QP6/266 SM-4



Verdict: Solid dollar value.

Pros: Low cost; decent performance.

Cons: The Polywell is faster and cheaper.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4.3GB EIDE hard drive, 12-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$3,099 est. street price

Quantex

(800) 787-8686

Reader Service No. 63

the Pentium Pro, the Pentium II, and Deschutes—all hurling toward us before next New Year's Day. And by this time next year a chip code-named Katmai, which will feature second-generation MMX technology (with support for 3-D geometry and dual floating-point operations) will arrive. These are just the CPUs from Intel, Cyrix, AMD, and Digital also have a menagerie of new offerings they'd love to see on your desktop. (See "K6 Systems Take On MMX," page 103.)

Dazed and Confused As you can see, every computing niche imaginable will have a made-to-order chip for it. Purchase decisions will become bewilderingly complex in the coming months. But today the solutions are straightforward. If you're running Windows NT on the desktop, a Pentium II is your answer. Prices for first-generation systems range

from less than \$3,000 to more than \$5,000.

The top performers in our roundup are familiar faces. Running at 266MHz, systems from Dell, Gateway 2000, and Compaq stole the lead. Their performance in business application benchmarks varied by less than 10 percent. Polywell, Hewlett-Packard, and Quantex machines also use 266MHz versions of the Pentium II. All three followed close on the heels of the leaders. For that matter, the Digital—which has a 233MHz CPU—performed nearly as fast as the Quantex.

The Unicent Titana II 233XLS and the AST Bravo LC 6233, on the other hand, dropped considerably behind the pack. In fact, they were slightly slower than Dell's superspeedy 200MHz Pentium Pro in business applications. But when running a broad range of NT applications, both

systems showed considerably better throughput than the Pentium Pro. And remember, the Pentium II includes MMX; the Pentium Pro does not.

Performance isn't the only thing that matters, of course. With the Pentium II you get a generational leap in system configurations. Every machine we tested, for example, came with 64MB of EDO RAM. For most, this is the base configuration. Only the AST came with a 2GB hard drive; most came with 4GB, and the Gateway G6-266 Multimedia and the Dell Dimension XPS H266 MT sported a whopping 6.4GB drive. Incidentally, many system makers that have traditionally outfitted their systems with EIDE interfaces are opting for the higher transfer rates of SCSI.

Big League The Gateway and the Dell—which are configured nearly identically—

lead the pack in overall performance. Along with their 64MB of EDO RAM and 6.4GB EIDE hard drives, both machines feature a 16-speed CD-ROM drive, an Imega Zip drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, and a 17-inch monitor. The Dell nosed ahead of the Gateway in overall performance by about 4 percent, and features 8MB of WRAM on its video card, compared with the Gateway's 4MB of EDO DRAM. On the other hand, the Gateway's \$3,349 price (which includes wavelate support on its audio card) makes it \$650 cheaper than the Dell. As bang for the buck goes, the Gateway is the best value of any Pentium II you'll find.

Compaq's Deskpro 6000 M6266/4200/CDS performed third fastest overall, though its SCSI drive pushed its throughput to the equivalent of (and sometimes faster than) the Dell

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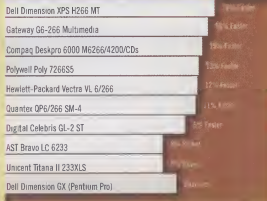
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New! Sneak Peek: The First Pentium II Supersystems

Life at 266MHz

Windows Application Performance



NOTE: APPLICATIONS TEST WAS TEST THAT RANKS 18 OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS UNDER WINDOWS 95 AND WINDOWS NT

Pentium Pro Meets MMX: Even Windows NT gets a boost from Intel's new 266MHz and 233MHz Pentium II MMX chips, thanks to a bigger cache and faster clock speeds. Dollar for dollar, the 266MHz version of the chip (found in the top six systems here) delivers the best performance value.



Polywell Poly 7266S5



Verdict: An excellent value for tight budgets.

Pros: Irresistible price; respectable performance.

Cons: The Dell, Gateway, and Compaq are faster.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 5.1GB EIDE hard drive, 12-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$2,956 est. street price
Polywell
(800) 999-1278
Reader Service No. 622

Quantex QP6/266 SM-4



Verdict: Solid dollar value.

Pros: Low cost; decent performance.

Cons: The Polywell is faster and cheaper.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4.3GB EIDE hard drive, 12-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$3,099 est. street price
Quantex
(800) 787-8686
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the Pentium Pro, the Pentium II, and Deschutes—all hurling toward us before next New Year's Day. And by next year a chip cod Katmai, which will second-generation MMX technology (with support geometry and dual point operations) will These are just the CF Intel, Cyrix, AMD, an also have a menageri offerings they'd love i your desktop. (See "Kt Take On MMX," page

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New! Sneak Peek: The First Pentium II Supersystems



AST Bravo LC 6233



Verdict: An affordable low-end solution.

Pros: Prices start as low as \$2,300.

Cons: Lazy performance; 233MHz chip; minimalist configuration.

Features As Tested: 233MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 2GB hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, 17-inch monitor.

\$2,950 est. street price
AST Computer
(800) 876-4278
Reader Service No. 624



Compaq Deskpro 6000 M6266/4200/CDS



Verdict: A Fortune 500 speed demon.

Pros: Undaunted performance; Compaq quality.

Cons: Country-club price; no USBs; eight-speed CD-ROM drive.

Features As Tested: 266MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4.2GB Ultra-Wide SCSI hard drive, eight-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio, 17-inch monitor.

\$4,799 est. street price
Compaq Computer
(800) 345-1518
Reader Service No. 625



Unicent Titana II 233XLS



Verdict: We'll wait for the 266MHz version.

Pros: Big SCSI hard drive.

Cons: Only a 233MHz chip; high price.

Features As Tested: 233MHz Pentium II, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4.2GB SCSI hard drive, 12-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with speakers, 17-inch monitor.

\$4,299 est. street price
Unicent Technologies
(800) 320-1475
Reader Service No. 626

or the Gateway in some multimedia and database applications. Even so, it lagged behind the leaders by less than 8 percent. The machine offers Compaq quality through and through, although its eight-speed CD-ROM drive is antiquated—especially given the machine's \$4,799 price.

Polywell's Poly 7266S5 takes top honors for high performance on a tight budget. It costs \$2,956, which gets you 64MB of EDO RAM, a 5.1GB EIDE hard drive, a 12-speed CD-ROM drive, speakers, and a 17-inch monitor. Its performance lagged only slightly behind the Compaq.

The \$3,099 Quantex QP6/266 SM-4 also delivers solid dollar value, given its 4.3GB EIDE hard drive, 12-speed CD-ROM drive, and 4MB of WRAM. On the downside, its performance was 11 percent slower than the

Dell's. For many, this is a small sacrifice. Both the Quantex and the Polywell deliver faster performance and more features than many machines that cost thousands of dollars more.

Workhorse HP's Vectra VL 6/266, which performed only slightly slower than the Polywell and the Compaq, surprised us with its aggressive pricing. Mind you, \$4,065 isn't exactly a bargain-hunter's dream. But the HP comes with a 4.6GB EIDE hard drive and room for expansion. It's an excellent corporate platform for workgroup applications and high-end graphics.

So is Digital's Celebris GL-2 ST—if you've got a generous budget. It costs about \$6,796, which is steep considering it's a 233MHz Pentium II, compared with the faster 266MHz models. Even so, it ran only about 6 percent slower than the Quantex. And the machine can take two

CPUs for advanced modeling, CAD, high-end graphics, and other processor-hungry applications. It comes with a 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI hard drive, 8MB of WRAM on its video card, a 16-speed CD-ROM drive, and integrated 10Base-T and 100Base-TX Ethernet. It's better equipped than the Compaq, even though it's slower.

Systems from AST and Unicent rounded out the low end of the performance scale. No one would call these machines slackers, but both lagged behind Dell's superstar Pentium Pro. Mind you, they're faster than most Pentium Pros, and NT apps recompiled for MMX will fly under their spell.

The AST Bravo is undoubtedly the better of the two. Aimed at small-office/home-office buyers, the machine's base price is an astounding \$2,200 with 32MB of RAM. Dress it up with another 32MB

of EDO RAM and a 17-inch monitor, however, and the price jumps to \$2,950. This is within reason, but the system's configuration is comparatively miserly. You get a 2GB hard drive, 2MB of memory on the video card, and audio costs extra. To its credit, it comes with a 16-speed CD-ROM drive. But dollar for dollar, better deals abound.

The Unicent, by comparison, seems oddly out of line. System prices fluctuate like pork-belly futures, of course, and we have no doubt that the machine's \$4,299 price will take a tumble. The Unicent certainly offers a fine brew of components: a big 4.2GB SCSI hard drive, a 12-speed CD-ROM drive, and 4MB of WRAM on the video card. You'll certainly want to keep this machine on your radar screen, all right. But wait for the sale. **MARTY JEROME**



1995

v 3.0.3



1996

v 3.0.3



1997

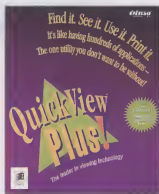
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COMPUTER CITY
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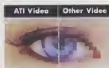
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PCG OBJECTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PERSPECTIVE CORRECT TEXTURE MAPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRANSPARENCY (ALPHA BLENDING)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRUE COLOR VIDEO IN 3D MODE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Now You See It.™



CyberMax PowerMax A53 200MMX

K6 Systems Take On MMX

PREVIEW Take a seat, Intel. The Pentium II is impressive, all right. But AMD's long-awaited K6 chip tops the 200MHz MMX Pentium in Windows 95 application benchmarks. Windows NT performance isn't shabby either. And K6 systems are priced to move. PC Computing's Labs got a sneak peek at CyberMax's PowerMax A53 200MMX, a first-generation K6 box.

The 200MHz PowerMax outpaced Dell's 200MHz Pentium-based Dimension XPS M200s by about 5 percent in Windows 95 benchmarks. In fact, the CyberMax was slightly faster than Xi Computer's MX200 MTower SP and Micro X's MXP-5000—both of which feature Intel's new 430TX chip set (see "Next-Generation MMX on the Cheap," page 106). If this performance advantage seems paltry, who cares? The machine's \$2,199 price is hundreds less than many 200MHz MMX systems.

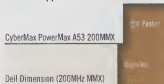
If an early look at an AMD reference system is any indicator, the K6's performance under Windows NT won't disappoint. The AMD trailed Dell's new 266MHz Klamath system by less than 10 percent in NT application benchmarks.

Pentium Palooka The CPU itself plugs right into a Pentium socket, which lets system makers use existing motherboard designs for it. Like the Pentium Pro, the K6 is optimized for 32-bit code, but its whopping 64K of L1 cache means performance doesn't choke on mongrel 16-bit and 32-bit Windows 95



Special K: Powered by AMD's 200MHz K6 CPU, CyberMax's PowerMax delivers faster performance than any 200MHz MMX Pentium—for hundreds less.

Over the Top Windows Application Performance



NOTE: WINBENCH 97 IS A TEST THAT RANKS 14 OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS UNDER WINDOWS 95 AND NT.

Speed Gains: The 200MHz PowerMax enjoys a slight performance advantage over a 200MHz MMX Pentium.

applications. It gives you the best of both worlds.

What's more, AMD licensed Intel's MMX technology for the chip. Because the K6's circuitry is different from the Pentium II's, however, AMD had to create its own version of the multimedia instructions. The two companies are currently embroiled in a lawsuit over the use of the MMX name.

Let their lawyers duke it out. The bigger brawl will take place in pricing. The PowerMax costs less than most 200MHz MMX Pentiums, yet it gives you power to spare when running either Windows 95 or NT. And apps recompiled to take

advantage of MMX will sing.

Don't let the machine's price raise your suspicions; the PowerMax is packed with features. It comes with 32MB of synchronous DRAM, a 4.2GB EIDE hard drive, a 16-speed CD-ROM drive, 4MB of WRAM on a Matrox Millennium video accelerator, a 33.6Kbps fax modem, speakers, and a 17-inch monitor.

Wild Card The PowerMax makes an excellent bridge for that long migration to Windows NT. It can be depreciated quickly and swapped for more powerful iron when needed. But as long as you're running Windows 95, it offers

FILEBOX

PowerMax A53 200MMX



Verdict: Faster than any 200MHz MMX Pentium—yet it costs hundreds less.

Pros: Loaded to the nines; outstanding price; stunning performance.

Cons: Running Windows NT? Systems based on the Pentium II are faster.

Features As Tested: 200MHz K6 CPU, 512K L2 cache, 32MB of SDRAM, 4.2GB EIDE hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit audio with wavetable support and speakers, Matrox Millennium video accelerator with 4MB of WRAM, 33.6Kbps fax modem, two USB ports, 17-inch monitor.

\$2,199 est. street price
CyberMax Computer
(800) 345-9065
Reader Service No. 67

tremendous bang for the buck. And for misers, even cheaper 166MHz and 233MHz versions will be available soon.

The more pressing question about the K6 is how it will stack up to Cyrix's M2 CPU, which is due out later this year. Cyrix has already proven that it can deliver more powerful CPUs than Intel at a lower price. Like the K6, the M2 will have an MMX instruction set and 64K of L1 cache.

Even if the M2 can't outgun the K6 in raw performance, it will no doubt fan the fires of a raging price war. And this, of course, is good news for everyone. **MARTY JEROME**

Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Acceptable ★★★★★ Poor ★★★★★ Unacceptable

Two Ways to 56K



It seems like only yesterday V.34 was the belle of the ball. Then 33.6Kbps was all the rage. Meanwhile, your sluggish Internet connection remains a daily exercise in frustration. You need faster access, but ISDN is too expensive, and cable and ADSL modems are things of the future. What to do? Shift your analog modem into the 56Kbps fast lane.

Both the U.S. Robotics Sportster 56K Faxmodem and the Diamond Multimedia SupraExpress 56i promise downstream data transfers of up to 56Kbps, with upstream rates close to 33.6Kbps.

So what's the catch? With no 56Kbps standard expected until early next year, these modems are based on incompatible, proprietary technologies. Depending on which technology your ISP supports, either modem could be the answer to your 56K access problems.

Us and Them We tested a shipping unit of the external Sportster 56K Faxmodem, which uses x2 technology supported by U.S. Robotics and Texas Instruments, by connecting to a special America Online x2 POP. We also looked at an early beta version of the internal SupraExpress 56i, which uses the K56flex technology supported by Rockwell Semiconductor Systems and Lucent Technologies. No K56flex POPs were available in time for us to test the SupraExpress 56i for comparison.

Because we tested the Sportster 56K Faxmodem using a corporate PBX, which typically hinders modem speed, our performance evaluation



Life in the Fast Lane: Squeeze more modem performance from standard analog phone lines. The internal Diamond Multimedia SupraExpress 56i (left) and the external U.S. Robotics Sportster 56K Faxmodem (right) hit download speeds of 56Kbps.

took a back seat to overall usability and price.

Setup and installation for both Windows 95 Plug and Play modems were simple. Connecting the Sportster to America Online, however, was a bit tricky because we first had to download and install special x2 software for the America Online 3.0 client. Also noisome: When we tested the Sportster, there were only five x2 POPs nationwide. (According to U.S. Robotics, 169 POPs are available now, with more on the way.) When we finally connected, the x2 service was snappy and responsive, especially when compared with a typical 28.8Kbps connection. Both x2 and K56flex modems dropped to slower 33.6Kbps or 28.8Kbps rates when they couldn't reach 56Kbps.

Both modems include a CD-ROM for installation and setup, as well as communications software. The more expensive Sportster also

includes Connections 4.0, a CD-ROM packed with Internet software, online-service and ISP offerings, and games.

Universal Upgrades

When making your 56Kbps decision, also consider which standard your ISP supports (many support both). Meanwhile, developers of both technologies have promised to offer an upgrade to the eventual 56K standard, although no prices have been set. And as for upgrading from your existing modem, U.S. Robotics' \$60 package is much better than Diamond Multimedia's, which ranges from \$20 to \$45, depending on your trade-in.

The most aggressive 56K upgrade strategy, however, may come from another player altogether. Hayes Microcomputer has announced plans to upgrade any modem from any company for only \$99 when its 56Kbps modems become available later this year. Bottom line? Stay tuned.

RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

Sportster 56K Faxmodem



Verdict: Everything you'd expect in a Sportster at a blazing 56Kbps. But will the x2 standard catch on?

Pros: Dozens of software apps on a handy CD-ROM; lots of ISPs have pledged support for x2.

Cons: Not all America Online POPs support x2; performance varies with phone service.

Competition: The only other modem company working with the x2 chip set is Cardinal, which was recently purchased by Hayes, a K56flex company. Hayes says it will support both technologies. Also important: U.S. Robotics was recently acquired by 3Com, a strong K56flex proponent.

\$219 est. street price; \$60 for upgrade from any U.S. Robotics modem purchased after August 15, 1996
U.S. Robotics
(800) 542-5877, (947) 676-7010
Reader Service No. 628

SupraExpress 56i

Verdict: An interesting preview of the K56flex standard, but still too early to rate.

Pros: Inexpensive; many ISPs will support K56flex.

Cons: As of press time there were no K56flex services to dial into.

Competition: Many modem companies have licensed the K56flex chip set, including Hayes and Motorola, but the SupraExpress is the first K56flex unit available.

\$169 est. street price; \$20 to \$45 for upgrade, depending on original equipment
Diamond Multimedia
(800) 468-5846, (360) 604-1400
Reader Service No. 629



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DECEMBER 2000

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Circle 299 on reader service card.

Next-Generation MMX on the Cheap

PREVIEW Let your colleagues tap away on pricey, feature-fat boxes. You have one goal in buying a Pentium system: bang for the buck. Two new offerings—from Micro X and Xi Computer—deliver performance on par with the fastest 200MHz MMX systems tested in *PC Computing's* Labs. Better still, the first digit in their price tags is a 2, not a 3.

Wrench It Up As you'd expect, both machines are tuned for maximum throughput with big 512K L2 caches. But what really gives them the edge over other MMX systems is Intel's new 430TX chip set.

The chip set's DRAM controller comes from the HX chip set, which supports very fast EDO timing. But unlike the HX, the 430TX supports 66MHz synchronous DRAM (SDRAM) for main memory. In other words, it works with all the fastest memory technologies on the market.

The chip set supports concurrent PCI, which renders smoother, sharper full-motion video. It also supports the new Ultra IDE interface, which provides transfer rates of 33MBps, compared with the 17MBps to 22MBps transfer rates typical of the standard ATA interface. This particularly benefits the Micro X MXP-5000. Already the fastest 200MHz MMX system to enter our Labs, the Micro X test unit came with a standard Adaptec Fast SCSI controller. Shipping units will feature an even faster Ultra IDE board.

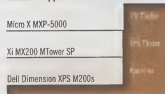
The Xi MX200 MTower SP was nearly as fast as the Micro X MXP-5000—even with a simpler, cheaper IDE hard drive. Performance on both machines was virtually



High-Octane: New 200MHz systems from Xi (left) and Micro X (right) are among the fastest MMX Pentiums available. Their secret? Intel's 430TX PCI motherboard chip set, which supports SDRAM and Ultra IDE. All Pentium PCs should include the 430TX by year's end.

A Step Ahead

Windows Application Performance



NOTE: MICROXONE 93 IS A TEST THAT RINGS 14 OF THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS UNDER WINDOWS 95 AND NT

identical to Dell's superstar Dimension XPS M200s in business applications benchmarks.

Wrench It Down At \$2,599, the Xi system is the better value of the two. The price includes 32MB of SDRAM, a whopping 4.9GB hard drive, a 16-speed CD-ROM drive, STB's Velocity 3D video card with 4MB of EDO VRAM, a sound card and speakers, and a big 17-inch monitor—not exactly the flinty features in your average budget box.

The résumé on the \$2,999 Micro X is just as impressive. The machine ships with 32MB of SDRAM, a 4.3GB hard drive, a 16-speed CD-ROM

Close Call:

Based on Intel's new 430TX PCI chip set, these systems keep pace with the fastest 200MHz MMX system we've ever tested.

drive, a Matrox Millennium graphics card with 6MB of WRAM, a high-end audio card and speakers, and a generous 17-inch monitor. If you like the fast transfer rates and expandability of a SCSI interface, this machine is worth the extra \$400 over the Xi.

The low prices and top performance of both machines make them ideal interim solutions to the Pentium II. But Xi and Micro X may not enjoy the price-performance edge for long. The AMD-K6 chip will exert considerable pressure (see "K6 Systems Take On MMX," page 103). Still, if you want tried-and-true Intel, these are the best values. **MARTY JEROME**

FILEBOX

MX200 MTower SP



Verdict: A good interim solution before buying your first Pentium II.

Pros: Eye-popping price; stunning performance.

Cons: Faster competitors loom.

Features As Tested:

200MHz MMX Pentium, 512K L2 cache, 32MB of SDRAM expandable to 128MB, 4.9GB EIDE hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, STB Velocity 3D video card with 4MB of EDO VRAM, Addonics audio card with 3-D surround sound and speakers, 17-inch ViewSonic monitor, two USB ports, two ISA slots, three PCI slots.

\$2,599 est. street price
Xi Computer Corp.
(800) 432-0488
Reader Service No. 630

MXP-5000



Verdict: For Intel loyalists, here's superb performance for the dollar.

Pros: Fastest MMX performance you'll find; great price.

Cons: AMD PCs are in the passing lane.

Features As Tested:

200MHz MMX Pentium, 512K L2 cache, 32MB of SDRAM expandable to 256MB, 4.3GB Fast SCSI hard drive, 16-speed CD-ROM drive, Matrox Millennium graphics card with 6MB of WRAM, Ensoniq AudioPCI card with speakers, U.S. Robotics 33.6 fax modem with speakerphone, 17-inch MAG DX700T monitor, two ISA slots, one PCI slot.

\$2,999 est. street price
Micro X
(800) 215-5214
Reader Service No. 631

IT CAN REMOVE TIRED OLD PROGRAMS EVEN BEFORE THEY'RE WRITTEN. (TOO BAD WE DON'T MAKE A VERSION FOR TV.)

New CleanSweep® 3 from Quarterdeck is so uniquely thorough, it can remove unwanted files and programs that won't even be on your PC for years.

Because with Update-It™, CleanSweep is the only removal utility that can regularly and automatically update itself over the Internet. So right off, it has the ability to dispose of unnecessary files generated by programs that haven't even been written yet.

Of course, it can surely tidy up those that have.



It already runs on Windows NT and Windows 95, and it comes with an application knowledge base of over 1,000 popular 16- and 32-bit programs. The same pro-

grams that spew debris all over the place every time you install them, or even when you download a file.

Debris such as redundant DLLs, invalid registry entries, duplicate files and orphan files.

All in all, pretty messy stuff.

Eventually the inside of your computer resembles the inside of your closet, and you begin to wonder where all that valuable hard disk space went.

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With the determination of bloodhounds, they quickly locate the junk and either remove it automatically or, if you prefer, let you do it yourself. Furthermore, files you don't want deleted won't be. Our exclusive Safety Sweep™ provides the best protection available against accidental file

deletion. It even automatically compresses and backs up the files it removes.

We may not know what tomorrow's software will look like, but we do know this – it won't be pretty.

So install CleanSweep, the only removal utility that can safely and successfully get rid of unnecessary files for years and years to come.

Get your own copy by visiting your nearest store today. Or call us at (800) 683-6696, code 01115, or pay us a visit at www.quarterdeck.com.



CleanSweep 3 keeps your hard drive from getting stopped up.



The law of personal computers: What goes in usually just stays there.

Circle 354 on reader service card.

Color Around the Office



If you work with color on a daily basis, chances are you're spending too much money. It's time to check out the latest multifunction device (MFD), Hewlett-Packard's OfficeJet Pro 1150C. This combination color printer, copier, and scanner is unlike any MFD we've seen—and it costs much less.

Based on its list of features, you'd think the OfficeJet Pro would be huge and expensive. Think again. It's no bigger than an average network printer, and it sets you back a mere \$999.

Manage It All Each component of the OfficeJet Pro 1150C is a solid product by its own merit. The ink-jet printer features 8-ppm, 600-dpi monochrome output and 4-ppm, 600-by-300-dpi color output. If you've used a Hewlett-Packard ink-jet printer before, you know what to expect: fiery speeds and good-looking output. The OfficeJet Pro blazed through our performance tests, requiring just over five minutes to print a 3-page color presentation, and about two and a half minutes for a 10-page text-only document.

Presentation output was outstanding, although minor banding appeared in solid backgrounds. We found some dithering patterns in photographic output samples, but the overall color quality was impressive. Monochrome text output was laser-quality crisp, sharp, and clear.

The OfficeJet Pro is the only product in its price range that offers color copying. The copier produces pages at about the same rate as the printer, and its quality is sure to impress. You can easily adjust the color



Do Everything in Color: Get a 600-dpi color printer, a color copier, and a 300-dpi color scanner in one unit for under \$1,000 with HP's OfficeJet Pro 1150C. Also included: Adobe's PhotoDeluxe image editor and Caere's OmniPage LE OCR software.



PC Computing image test

Ink Jet Inside: The OfficeJet Pro 1150C's built-in ink-jet printer produces impressive pages, despite its 600-by-300-dpi color output. Text is sharp and photographic images are smooth.

quality and copy intensity to ensure your output looks its best. Handling up to 50 copies at a time, automatically sizing documents to 8.5 by 11 inches, and scaling from 50 to 400 percent, the copier function leaves little to be desired.

The most impressive part of the OfficeJet Pro is the scanner. If you've never used a scanner, the idea might be intimidating. But scanning has never been easier than with the OfficeJet Pro. Neither a SCSI connection nor add-in cards are required. The same parallel-port connection that controls the printer controls the scanner. The 300-dpi scanner is TWAIN-compliant so you can

control it with most scanning software. However, HP's ScanSmart technology makes scanning one-button easy. You can scan and manipulate text and graphics from 32-bit non-TWAIN-compliant Windows 95 applications.

The OfficeJet Pro integrates with your applications and lets you access the Scan Picture and Acquire Text options directly from your File Menu. You also get Adobe's PhotoDeluxe image editor and Caere's OmniPage LE OCR software.

Where's the Fax? Lest you think the OfficeJet Pro does everything, it does have a few drawbacks. The main one is its lack of a fax option—a

FILEBOX

HP OfficeJet Pro 1150C



Verdict: A low-cost, high-impact color printer, copier, and scanner in one.

Pros: Scanning has never been so simple; outstanding color printing; great-looking text; inexpensive color copies.

Cons: Lacks a fax option, forcing you to rely on your existing fax modem.

Competition: Brother's \$800 MFC-4550 combines a laser printer, a copier, a scanner, and a fax—but it can't print color.

Features As Tested: 1.5MB of RAM, 600-dpi monochrome ink-jet printing, 600-by-300-dpi color ink-jet printing, 300-dpi TWAIN-compliant color scanner, 50 to 400 percent copy scaling.

\$999 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 752-5900
(408) 725-8800

feature found on most competing multifunction devices. You're stuck with your PC's fax modem or a stand-alone fax machine. We'd also like to see higher-resolution output, which would greatly enhance the quality of photographic and highly detailed images.

Nevertheless, if your office prints, copies, or scans color documents, it's hard to beat the HP OfficeJet Pro 1150C. The color copier alone makes it worth the expense. And for those intimidated by scanning, HP makes it as easy as possible. At just \$999, your workgroup simply can't afford not to buy the OfficeJet Pro 1150C. KYLA K. CARLSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARNOLD THOSELO



nam Press

Life On Mars!

CALIFORNIA — Astronomers at SOCAL Space Labs have proved life has and still does exist on Mars. For decades, scientists have debated the possibility that Mars can sustain life. Now, Robert Packard has provided the key evidence of its existence.

Using space telescopes at four different sites in the desert, Packard and his team have come up with

Great. Just when we'd perfected communications software for *this* planet.

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Especially now that we've integrated secure, fast remote control capabilities into the world's best-selling PC communications software. So you have quick, easy access to your files and applications wherever you are.

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And we integrated it all with a Connection Directory that lets you fax, browse and transfer files without having to jump from one application to another or reconfigure your system settings every single time.

Basically, what we've created is the most advanced 32-bit multitasking communications package on earth. And for now, we'll just have to settle for that. To find out more call 1-800-282-0866, code 01717, visit your nearest store or come to www.quarterdeck.com.



Circle 355 on reader service card.

New! **HARDWARE:** Canon PowerShot 350 vs. Sony DSC-F1

Digital Shooters Get Smaller

Can good digital cameras come in small packages? You bet—the latest models from Sony and Canon prove it. In addition to their compact size, Sony's DSC-F1 (\$849) and Canon's PowerShot 350 (\$699) share many features. Both snap JPEG images in 24-bit color at 640 by 480 resolution. Both use a built-in 1.8-inch color LCD that doubles as a viewfinder and playback display. And both let you send pictures directly to a TV screen, or transfer them to a PC (cables are included). Beyond the basic features, however, these cameras are remarkably different.

Pint-size Power Sony's DSC-F1 is as clever as it is small. Its sleek, rectangular frame houses 4MB of internal flash memory that lets you store 30, 58, or 108 pictures (all at VGA resolution, but at varying JPEG compression levels). It also has several image-capture settings, including Continuous mode for full-frame action sequences, and Multi Screen mode for capturing action shots such as a golf swing in a series of nine rapidly recorded thumbnails.

The Sony DSC-F1's lens and flash pivot freely from front to back. Normal focus is automatic and fixed. There's no zoom feature, but the Macro mode records as close as 3 inches. The camera has both video and PC output ports, and a built-in infrared transceiver (IrDA 1.1) that sends images to a PC, another camera, or a Sony DPP-M55 photo printer. (Sony is offering a free infrared PC adapter through June 30.) The company also bundles Arcsoft's PhotoStudio image editor.

All these great features take a lot of juice. The Sony's



Look Sharp: Sony's compact DSC-F1 (left) and Canon's pint-size PowerShot 350 (right) fit in the palm of your hand and take outstanding digital shots.



Image Conscious: Both the Sony DSC-F1 (left) and the Canon PowerShot 350 (right) produce 640-by-480-dpi images, but the Sony's colors are richer, brighter, and more true-to-life. Contrast is better as well.

rechargeable lithium-ion battery lasts only 20 minutes in Record mode and slightly longer in Playback mode, yet it takes five hours to recharge. It won't take alkalines in a pinch, either. At least the AC adapter is tiny.

Quality Close-up Canon focuses on practicality with its PowerShot 350 (not to be confused with its older sibling, the 600, which has a higher resolution but no LCD or video-out port). The squarish PowerShot 350 keeps its fixed autofocus lens in place, but its adjustable Macro mode lets you get to

within 1.2 inches of a subject. And the LCD panel swings upward to give you a better view when shooting. The PowerShot 350 stores fewer pictures than the Sony—11, 24, or 47, depending on the level of compression—but it stores them on a tiny and easily removable 2MB Compact Flash card that fits into a standard PC Card-size adapter. You can buy additional cards from Canon and others, making it convenient to keep electronic albums.

The PowerShot 350 comes with useful software, including Ulead Systems' PhotoImpact

FILEBOX

PowerShot 350



Verdict: A solid, practical, and compact camera at a great price.

Pros: Removable memory card that works in a PC Card slot; tilting LCD; hooks into your television; decent battery life.

Cons: Modest internal storage; fixed lens.

\$699 est. street price
Canon Computer Systems
(800) 848-4123, (714) 438-3000
Reader Service No. 612

Sony DSC-F1



Verdict: An eye-catching little camera that takes a nice shot.

Pros: Rotating lens; lots of memory; hooks up to your television; infrared feature that makes transferring files to your PC simple.

Cons: Short battery life; high price.

\$849 est. street price
Sony Electronics
(800) 326-9551, (408) 432-0190
Reader Service No. 633

image editor and several utilities—one even lets you create your own panoramas from multiple pictures. The PowerShot 350's rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries last about 50 minutes in Record mode, and about 80 minutes in Playback mode. And you can replace them with three AA alkalines.

Whether you pick the sexy but short-lived Sony DSC-F1, or the plain and practical Canon PowerShot 350, you can't go wrong. Meanwhile, digital cameras are getting even more sophisticated as they get smaller. **CHRIS O'MALLEY**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLO TOSELO





BREAKTHROUGH!

Fix-It™ is the easiest way to find and fix Windows problems. Guaranteed!

Quarterdeck Fix-It is the breakthrough you need to solve system problems, conflicts and errors in Windows 95. And unlike Cybermedia's First Aid, Fix-It has a knowledge base of over 1,000 applications and superior emergency recovery. Get the power to help end the frustration of Windows 95 problems today!

Windows 95 - what a mess!

Every new program and peripheral adds new potential problems to your Windows 95 system. Software conflicts and hardware configuration errors can crash your PC in seconds. Botched installations or sloppy uninstalls can cause havoc and slow your system down. Most diagnostic

utilities won't even catch many of these problems. They only analyze your hardware devices, or a limited number of applications.

But Fix-It can prevent software conflicts and configuration errors in hundreds of applications and hardware devices before they stop you!



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Handy Pocket-size PCs

When you're choosing the perfect pocket computer, power isn't everything. You need a handheld computer that works the way you do; otherwise it'll share dusty shelf space with your aging copy of WordPerfect for DOS.

The Psion Series 3c and the Sharp Zaurus ZR-3500X are two new handheld PCs packed with more features than ever thought possible in units this small. While both operate on proprietary, non-Windows CE operating systems, each offers Internet and e-mail access, as well as other new features.

Word Series New to Psion's line of handhelds, the Series 3c brings a bright backlit screen to an already well-designed miniature computer. The Series 3c's software includes a word processor, a spreadsheet, a scheduler, a note taker (which uses the QWERTY keyboard), a database, a calculator, a file manager, a programming language, and a paging option.

While Windows CE-based handheld computers ship with light versions of Microsoft Word and Excel, Psion's applications are Word- and Excel-compatible—if you're willing to spend some extra money. Psion's \$99 PsiWin lets you share data with your PC via a serial connection, as well as smoothly integrate your schedule with Lotus Organizer and Microsoft Schedule+ 7.

Eager to send and receive Internet e-mail when you're on the run? Use the Psion Series 3c's \$50 PsiMail Internet option. With PsiMail you connect to the Internet through your favorite ISP or the included CompuServe Network Services. You can



Two for the Road: Handheld computers from Psion (left) and Sharp (right) are loaded with powerful apps, including a Microsoft Word-compatible word processor and an Excel-compatible spreadsheet.



Odd Slots: Unlike other handheld computers, the Psion Series 3c is burdened with proprietary card slots that accommodate Psion cards only.

send and receive e-mail (including file attachments) and browse the Web using your own external modem.

Razor-Sharp Sharp's Zaurus ZR-3500X is similar to the Psion Series 3c, but there's one significant difference: Everything you need to synchronize data, send and receive e-mail, and connect to the Internet is included with the Zaurus ZR-3500X. The backlit Zaurus ships with an integrated 14.4Kbps fax modem. You can use your existing Internet account to send and receive e-mail using POP3/SMTP protocols. And as with the Psion, CompuServe software is included.

Want to keep your handheld

data synchronized with your desktop? The Zaurus comes bundled with a PC cable and Zaurus Application Partner for Windows 95 software, which lets you share data with Zaurus's Word- and Excel-compatible applications. You also get a scheduler that's compatible with ACT 2.x, Schedule+ 7, Lotus Organizer, and GoldMine 95. And the database feature, which uses the unit's QWERTY keyboard or the included stylus, provides an outline, a built-in filing system, and a note-taker.

The Psion Series 3 and the Sharp Zaurus are similar in weight and size. The Psion weighs 9.7 ounces and measures 6.5-by-3.35-by-0.87 inches.

The Zaurus packs a bit more heft at 11.8 ounces for its 6.3-by-3.5-by-1-inch frame. Each system could use an introductory tutorial to step you through all the features, like those found on the U.S. Robotics PalmPilot 1000 or the Apple Newton MessagePad 2000.

If you need a full-featured desktop-like solution for your handheld, the Psion Series 3c and the Sharp Zaurus ZR-3500X provide all you need and then some. But if you plan to use your handheld computer for basic scheduling and to-do lists, you're better off with the smaller, lower-priced, and easier-to-use PalmPilot 1000.

KYLA K. CARLSON

FILEBOX

Zaurus ZR-3500X



Verdict: Feature-packed, pocket-size portable—too bad it doesn't run Windows CE.

Pros: Includes fax modem, backlit display, app synchronization, and e-mail.

Cons: Lacks tutorial; internal modem is only 14.4Kbps.

\$499 est. street price
Sharp Electronics Corp.
(800) 237-4277
Reader Service No. 634

Psion Series 3c



Verdict: Handheld power saddled with proprietary everything.

Pros: Powerful software, backlit screen; paging option.

Cons: Additional cost for Internet compatibility and application synchronization.

\$479 est. street price
Psion
(800) 997-7466, (508) 371-0310
Reader Service No. 635



Get More for NT 4.0

Windows NT 4.0/NT 4.0 3D Speed (FPS) under NT 4.0



MATROX Millennium

*"With its breakthrough performance, 3D acceleration, and innovative use of Window RAM, Millennium brings workstation class graphics to the desktop at a price you can afford." PC Computing**

Blast through all your demanding NT 4.0 applications with 4 MB of Matrox Millennium power. Using state-of-the-art Window RAM memory, Millennium is the perfect solution for your demanding NT 4.0 applications.

Only Millennium's powerful dual-ported WRAM memory and 64-bit MGA chip deliver mind blowing speed for all your 2D, 3D and video applications. With its unique support for up to four monitors, the ability to upgrade to 8 MB and its 220 MHz DAC, you'll get the ultimate in displays with resolutions up to 3200 x 2400 in true 24-bit color. With support for the latest 3D and video technology including HEIDI, AutoCAD 13, Open GL, Direct Draw, and ActiveMovie, you'll be ready to tackle any NT 4.0 application.

Over twenty years experience has earned Matrox a stellar reputation. Compaq, Dell, Hewlett Packard and IBM have all chosen Matrox to power their enterprise systems. PC Magazine, PC Computing and PC World have all bestowed upon us their highest honors, making Matrox the only graphics manufacturer to receive over 200 awards. The Matrox name brings with it the assurance that you are getting the best in the industry - bar none. There is no other choice but Matrox.



January 1997

matrox

1-800-583-4353 <http://www.matrox.com/mga>

NEW PRICE



High resolution workflow



Desktop publishing



Computer based training



3D CAD



*Quote from PC Computing Dec 1996. **Estimated street price for 4 MB. All performance tests conducted by Matrox Graphics Inc. on a Dell Pentium Pro 200MHz system with 32MB of EDO DRAM and 256K of cache. WinBench 3.7 Business Graphics conducted at 1024x768, 67.5 TM colors with 75Hz vertical refresh under Microsoft Windows NT 4.0. Matrox Millennium, 40 3D Pro Turbo = PC2TV Diamond Stealth 3D 2000 and Number Nine Integrate 128 Series 2 were configured with 4 MB of memory for the PCI bus using driver release 3.06, 3.1.73, 2.03 and 4.102.21 respectively.

Circle 153 on reader service card.

Secret Small-Office Weapons

In a small office, it's all about looking good—never mind your tight budget. Lousy print jobs and busy fax signals tell the world you're small potatoes. Show them you're heavy starch with a multifunction device (MFD) that combines a printer, a photocopier, a fax machine, and a scanner in a single unit.

Don't let past experiences change your opinion. First-generation MFDs were built around an ink-jet printer, which diminished output quality. But two of the latest MFDs, the Brother MFC-4550 and the Xerox Document WorkCentre Pro 535, use a laser printer as well as sophisticated faxing and copying tricks such as broadcast faxing and photocopying enlargement.

Performing Arts While they both use a laser-printer engine, the two are significantly different. The Brother MFC-4550's engine produces 6 ppm at 600 dpi, while the Xerox Document WorkCentre offers only 4 ppm at 300 dpi. In our tests, the Brother not only printed pages quicker, but also produced better-looking images.

When printing a simple single-page memo, the Brother was over 80 percent faster than the Xerox. For a 3-page graphics presentation it was over 300 percent faster. The difference wasn't as significant in photographic output tests, in which the Brother outperformed the Xerox by a mere 43 percent.

With the higher speeds, the Brother also gives you higher resolutions and cleaner documents. Its plain text was much more crisp and its letters more clearly defined than the Xerox's. And graphics images from the Brother were



How to Get Ahead: Get all the tools of big business at a low price. The Brother MFC-4550 (left) and the Xerox Document WorkCentre Pro 535 (right) combine a laser printer, a copier, a fax, and a scanner in one unit.



Smooth Moves: The 600-dpi Brother produced smooth, photorealistic pages.



Jagged Edge: Xerox's 300-dpi laser produced a rougher image at a far slower rate.

smoother and contained fewer noticeable dot patterns.

Another complaint with the Xerox is its paper handling. We experienced many jams that destroyed our pages when we tried to clear them.

Straight Fax When it comes to complex tasks like scanning and faxing documents, both the Brother and the Xerox are surprisingly simple. If you want quick access to a stored phone book, go with the Xerox. Its easy button pad finds anyone by name or by fax number. The Xerox's

onscreen display offers automatic resolution settings, a one-button copy feature, and straightforward faxing right from your PC.

Making copies? Nearly a quarter of the Brother's keypad is dedicated to tasks like enlarging and reducing image size. It also has a shrewd help system that's integrated with the unit's LCD.

For heavy-duty faxing, both MFDs store and automatically forward faxes, as well as handle automatic fax-back and broadcast faxing. Try that with an

inexpensive fax machine.

Both machines are well suited to home and small offices, but the Brother has the decided edge. While we have few overriding complaints about the Xerox Document WorkCentre Pro, the Brother MFC-4550 gives you a faster print engine and higher resolutions for \$300 less. At \$800, the Brother costs more than an average personal printer. But add its fax and copier features, and the Brother has a decisive advantage.

**KYLA K. CARLSON
AND KEDREN DILLARD**

FILEBOX

MFC-4550



Verdict: The ultimate small-office bundle—a printer, copier, fax, and scanner for just \$800.

Pros: Great-looking 600-dpi output; high print speeds; reliable paper handling; sophisticated copying features.

Cons: If you need just one or two of its bundled devices, the price is steep.

\$800 est. street price
Brother Int'l Corp.
(800) 827-6843, (908) 356-8880
Reader Service No. 636

Document WorkCentre Pro 535



Verdict: Plenty of print and fax power—but it will cost you.

Pros: Good software bundle; laser-quality printing.

Cons: Low print speeds; 300-dpi output quality; prone to paper jams.

\$1,100 est. street price
Xerox Corp.
(415) 813-6800
Reader Service No. 637



Speed Versatility Upgradeability

**NEW
PRICE**



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PC Computing Dec '96.

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Highest performance for MMX

Mystique's powerful SGRAM memory, integrated 64-bit chip design and unique scatter gather PCI bus mastering lets you race through high resolution spreadsheets, create dazzling 3D business presentations and animations, and enjoy smooth, full screen video effortlessly.

Not only does Mystique deliver blazing fast graphics, you can now push the limits even further with Matrox's new line of Rainbow Runner add-ons (sold separately and available June '97). Explore video conferencing over the network, edit your own business videos, or watch/record TV or video on the PC. At last you get a versatile, fully upgradeable solution for your business.

Over twenty years experience has earned Matrox a stellar reputation. Matrox has been chosen by Compaq, Dell, Hewlett Packard and IBM to power their flagship systems. PC Magazine, PC Computing and PC World have all bestowed upon us their highest honors, making Matrox the only graphics manufacturer to receive over 200 awards. To power your PC into the 21st century, there is no other choice but Matrox.



High resolution workflow



3D web browsing



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Watch/record TV or video on the PC

**\$119 (at MSRP)
\$149 (at MSRP)**



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**200
AWARDS**
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* Estimated street price. All performance tests conducted by Matrox Graphics Inc. on a Gateway 200 MHz MMX system with 32 MB of SDRAM and 512K cache. Winbench 97 Business Graphics test conducted at 1024 x 768 @ 16-bit with 75 Hz vertical refresh under Microsoft Windows 95. Matrox Mystique, ATI 3D Xpression + PC2TV, Diamond Stealth 3D 20000, and STB Velocity 3D were configured with 4 MB of memory for the PCI bus using driver releases 3.41, 3.03, 4.00.00.3105, and 1.248 respectively. Microsoft Word test run at full screen 640 x 400 @ 16-bit at default manufacturer refresh rate based on Gouard steering, perspective correct textures, point sampled with 2-samples.

Circle 154 on reader service card



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Pentium Pro 200, 64MB RAM

Windows 95



Here are the numbers

And they speak for themselves. PCTest measured how much faster you can launch these applications, even while multi-tasking (four intense, concurrent disk access processes).

*While results may vary based on your system, applications and nature of multi-tasking, we think you'll be impressed.



check out this control panel

show me the numbers

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Circle 206 on reader service card.

windrenalin hd

www.synchrony.com



Video-to-PC Snapshots

Get the most mileage from your home and office videos with Play's \$199 Snappy Video Snapshot 2.0. It turns video frames into still-image graphics files that you can edit, crop, and drop into any application.

The enhancements to this new version of Snappy aren't extensive, but Play has added some useful features. (See "Video Snapshots in a Flash," October 1996, page 88.) Our favorite is the ability to choose resolutions, from 64 by 48 pixels to 1,500 by 1,125 pixels.

Snappy keeps its same small size, which is just a little bigger than a deck of cards. Plug the unit into your computer's parallel port, connect your external video source, and snap away with the easy-to-use included software.



Freeze-frame: Play's Snappy Video Snapshot 2.0 turns video frames into digital snapshots.

Want to get that perfect still photo into your PC? Set up your camcorder on a tripod and film an image. Then put Snappy to work. The package

includes complete versions of Adobe Systems PhotoDeluxe, Gryphon Morph, and Kai's Power Goo SE.

Snappy 2.0 is easy to install

FILEBOX

Snappy Video Snapshot 2.0



Verdict: Turn video into great-looking still images on your PC.

Pros: Compact size; easy to install; great software bundle.

Cons: Doesn't capture full-motion video, just still images.

System Requirements:

Windows 3.x or later, 8MB of RAM, 8MB of hard disk space.

\$199 est. street price

Play
(800) 306-7529, (916) 851-0800
Reader Service No. 638

and use. If you need a quick way to turn your favorite videos into digital snapshots, Snappy Video Snapshot 2.0 is for you. **KYLA K. CARLSON**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TIDDELO

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Stops crashes before they stop you.

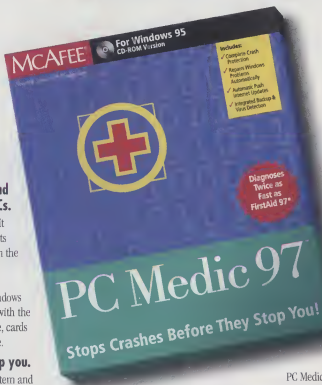
PC Medic continuously monitors your system and automatically intercepts crashes before you lose data.

It fixes problems instantly with the click of a button, and even restarts applications without rebooting your PC. Nothing is easier or more complete.

PC Medic 97	FirstAid Deluxe	
Complete Integrated Crash Protection	Yes	No
H/W and S/W Diagnostics	Yes	Yes
Push Internet Update	Yes	No
Comprehensive Backup	Yes	No
Office 95 Expert Advice	Yes	No
Free Virus Updates	Yes	No

When you install new software or peripherals, PC Medic makes sure you're configured properly. And it automatically finds and resolves conflicts with your existing system to keep things running smoothly.

Plus PC Medic provides faster,



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Now PC Medic fixes your Windows 95 problems with a simple click of a button.

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New! **HARDWARE:** Intel Pentium OverDrive Processor

Power Up Your Pentium with MMX

Funny how top-of-the-line hardware becomes a doorstop in just months. But with Intel's Pentium OverDrive Processor you can breathe new life into your aging PC.

The processor pops into the CPU socket on your system's motherboard and significantly increases your system's clock speeds. The upgrade also includes all the latest MMX instruction sets. You get a performance jump-start for all Windows favorites as well as for multimedia tasks. And digital video is smoother, as are complex graphics.

Models are available for 75MHz, 90MHz, and 100MHz machines, ranging in price from \$399 to \$499. Each increases your original processor's speed by 60MHz or more. In the



Shot in the Arm: Upgrade to MMX the affordable way with Intel's Pentium OverDrive.

90MHz Pentium we tested, the upgrade raised overall Windows performance by 33 percent—a nice boost.

Installing the new chip can be tricky: It often requires resetting jumpers on the motherboard. Luckily the included

documentation provides detailed guidelines that are easy to follow.

While the processor improves a system's performance, we weren't overly impressed with a few of the MMX-specific titles, which gobble major system resources. The optimized applications work fine with the chip upgrade, but they don't run as smoothly as they do on a native MMX machine.

With system prices constantly plunging, is the \$399 quick fix worth the expense? If you can't afford a full system upgrade, absolutely. The faster processor is certainly no magic bullet, but you'll easily gain speed.

JACK LYON

FILEBOX

Pentium OverDrive Processor



Verdict: An affordable way to add MMX to your aging system.

Pros: Adds MMX to older Pentiums; significantly improves system performance; cheaper than buying a new system.

Cons: MMX-specific titles run better on a native MMX system; requires resetting some motherboard jumpers, making it tricky to install.

\$399 for upgrade from 75MHz and 90MHz models, \$499 for 100MHz models, est. street prices
Intel Corp.
(800) 538-3373
(503) 264-7000
Reader Service No. 639

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TUDHOPE

The Way SCSI Should Be Viewed.

(and it even comes in a cool box)

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- Iomega Zip 100MB IDE Internal Drive with One Cartridge
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- 1000HS Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., 26dp, 1600x1200 max. res.)
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- Iomega Zip 100MB IDE Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- MS Windows NT® Workstation 4.0

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- Iomega Zip 100MB IDE Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- MS Windows 95

* Upgrade to a 6.4GB Hard Drive with 512KB Cache (9.5ms), add \$149.

* Upgrade to a 1000HS Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., 26dp, 1600x1200 max. res.), add \$165.

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DELL DIMENSION M200a 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 16MB SDRAM Memory
- 3.2GB Hard Drive (12ms)
- 800HS Trinitron Monitor (13.7" v.i.s.)

* Upgrade to 32MB SDRAM, add \$119.

* Upgrade to a 17LS Monitor (15.7" v.i.s.), add \$175.

* 33.6 U.S. Robotics Telephony Modem, add \$109.

* Sound Blaster 16 PnP Sound Card and Altec ACS-90 Speakers, add \$99.

\$1999

Business Lease: \$74/Mo.
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DELL DIMENSION M166a 166MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

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- 15LS Monitor (13.7" v.i.s.)

* Upgrade to 32MB SDRAM, add \$119.

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- 800HS Trinitron Monitor (13.7" v.i.s.)
- 3Com OfficeConnect Hub B/TPC

* Upgrade to 128MB ECC EDD Memory, add \$830.

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Business Lease: \$162/Mo.
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- 3Com OfficeConnect Hub B/TPC

* Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive, add \$320.

* MS Windows NT Server 4.0 (with 10 Client Access Licenses), add \$799.

* 4/8GB SCSI DAT Tape Backup, add \$749.

\$2999

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Common features listed above plus:

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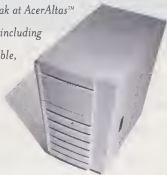
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Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0

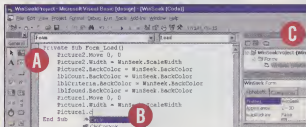
A Better Way to Build Apps

What's the real story behind Microsoft's newly released Visual Basic version 5.0 (VB5)? It doesn't concern its spectacular performance improvements. It has nothing to do with the "tips" that help you write programs, telling you which options are valid at any given point—and offering to type them in for you. Nor does it involve VB5's newfound ability to create your own ActiveX controls, or liberation (finally!) from that old VBRUNXXX.DLL runtime millstone. It goes way beyond VB5's versatile new Setup Wizard, solid Net and Winsock controls right in the box, and extensibility into every nook and cranny of users' machines via a solid ActiveX-Auto implementation.

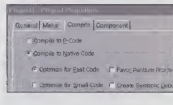
Nope. The real story behind VB5 revolves around its position at the vanguard of Microsoft's new strategy for programming languages. Some time before the end of the millennium we're going to see enormous improvements in the way Microsoft programming products work, and work together. VB5 represents the first steps in that direction.

Programmer's Perks It's easy to see where several of VB5's giant strides originated. The programming window was stolen wholesale from the Office/Visual Basic for Applications team. It's a remarkable achievement.

Type in ListBox1, for example, and VB5 automatically provides you with a complete list of Properties and Methods valid for that specific ListBox control. Type msgbox(), and VB5 not only prompts you



Custom Code: Programmers will love Visual Basic 5.0's new programming tools. Among the enhancements are dockable windows and the ability to open multiple projects. But VB veterans will need time to get used to the new interface.



A. Set your breakpoints and bookmarks.

B. Type a letter and VB5 presents you with all the valid choices.

C. View anything from forms to ActiveX in the enhanced Project Explorer window.

Ready, Set, Run: By default, VB5 compiles programs, turning them into 32-bit EXE files.

with the sequence of parameters, it even suggests mnemonic constants (like vbOKCancel), which you can select by typing a few letters and hitting the Tab key. Add the new multiple-project capabilities, "hover" values as ToolTips, and dozens of great features, and you'll be learning new tricks for months.

Let's you be tempted to think that the main benefit of "suite-ifying" falls with the programmer, take a look at how VB5's designers brought compiled code to the table. Until VB5 came along, all Visual Basic programs were interpreted—they required a runtime file like VBRUN400.DLL before the program would work. Since interpreted programs are almost always slower than their compiled siblings, Visual Basic

programs took a speed hit and a space hit from the get-go.

Basic Building Blocks VB5, though, gives you the option of distributing an interpreted program or creating a genuine, compiled EXE program. Moreover, the compiled code can be optimized for speed or for space. In our informal tests, we found programs compiled for size were about 50 percent larger and at least 20 percent faster than the interpreted version. VB programs compiled for speed grew almost twice as large as the interpreted programs, but ran in half the time.

How did VB5 finally get a compile option? The Visual Basic team swiped the new optimizing compiler backend from Microsoft's own

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Visual Basic 5.0



Verdict: The premier 32-bit visual app builder.

Pros: The best programming environment; creates ActiveX controls; SQL Server 6.5 support; Wizards galore.

Cons: Doesn't create 16-bit applications.

Competition: Borland Delphi and PowerSoft PowerBuilder already made the switch to all-compiled code some time ago. Delphi 2.0's object-oriented Pascal is also powerful. PowerBuilder 5.0 supports more platforms.

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Visual C++ group!

With so much going for it, there must be drawbacks to VB5. There are. VB5 takes a huge amount of hard disk space: Plan on 115MB for a "typical" installation (Professional Edition) to 345MB if you want all the graphics, video, and help goodies (Enterprise Edition). You also want at least 16MB of memory in Windows 95, and twice that for NT. And no matter how hard you try, you won't be able to create a program with VB5 that runs under Windows 3.x.

Given those restrictions, VB5 represents the greatest improvement in Visual Basic. Programmers will find the new tools breathtaking. Users will get whiplash. Who could ask for more? **WOODY LEONHARD**

Simply Stunning Illustrations

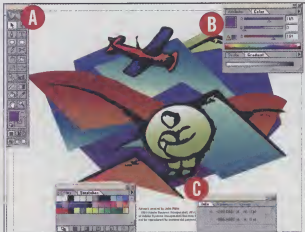


Forget flashy new features. Graphics professionals need illustration programs that save time and sanity, and graphics software companies are finally catching on. First, CorelDraw 7 simplified and honed its existing features. Now Adobe Illustrator 7.0 follows a similar tack, with a cross-platform face-lift. The end result is a drawing powerhouse that looks a lot cleaner, runs a bit faster, and delivers all the tools you need to create anything you can imagine.

Mac Attack Though Illustrator 4.1 for Windows was a solid graphics performer, it still lagged behind its full-featured Mac counterpart. Illustrator 7.0 even the score, bringing Windows 95 and NT 4.0 users every feature that put Adobe at the head of the Mac pack. That includes various palettes and filters, as well as color-separation and bitmap-conversion features. And while syncing the feature sets, Adobe has also wisely fine-tuned the tools.

There are some new features in Illustrator 7.0, but the focus is clearly on making Illustrator play nice with Photoshop 4.0 and PageMaker 6.5. Illustrator 7.0 sports cleaner menus, a simpler toolbox, and revised keyboard shortcuts that mimic those in the other Adobe programs. Illustrator now has the same easy tabbed-palette interface as that of Photoshop and PageMaker, with one extra touch: You can dock Illustrator's palettes to each other, letting you quickly move or minimize them as a group.

Granted, interapplication coordination and clean working environments don't push the needle very far on the excitement meter. But for most



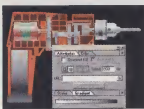
Big Draw: Adobe Illustrator 7.0 is the professional drawing program Windows users have been waiting for. It integrates flawlessly with other versions of Illustrator and with other Adobe Windows programs.

Click Here: Adobe Illustrator 7.0's Attributes palette lets you embed Web links in graphics for image maps and hotlinks.

A. Illustrator's simpler toolbox puts tools at your fingertips.

B. Easy RGB color support lets you prepare onscreen illustrations for video or the World Wide Web.

C. Illustrator, Photoshop, and PageMaker share a common tabbed-palette interface to control attributes.



people, these changes will do more for productivity than an upgrade full of new tools.

Illustrator 7.0 also makes it easier to dive into Web publishing. The previous version let you move your drawings from paper to the Web, but Illustrator 7.0 adds two important features: RGB color support and URL embedding. The RGB color picker lets you choose, identify, and manage RGB colors as easily as you would CMYK colors—ideal for preparing onscreen illustrations for Web sites or video presentations. With the URL-embedding feature, you create image maps and hotlinks by

assigning Web addresses to objects within an illustration.

True Colors Illustrator 7.0 has a new color-management system to translate colors from the screen to various output devices. In the Windows edition, Illustrator uses Kodak's Digital Science CMS, which includes profiles for a number of common output devices. Screen redraw is faster, too, thanks to a new caching system that hustles up large images by displaying only the minimum data needed for your screen's resolution.

Still hungry for some new tricks? A new reshape tool lets you change the contours of an

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Adobe Illustrator 7.0



Verdict: Simply the best professional drawing program on the planet. Period.

Pros: Flexible tools, exceptional integration with other Adobe products in either Windows or Mac format.

Cons: Its powerful features and large quiver of tools are overkill for casual artists—particularly at this price.

Competition: CorelDraw 7 and FreeHand Graphics Studio are very good drawing programs, with bitmap editing and 3-D features. But for vector-based illustrations, Illustrator is now the one to beat in the Windows arena too, for both speed and flexibility.

System Requirements:

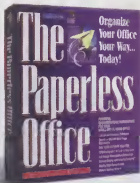
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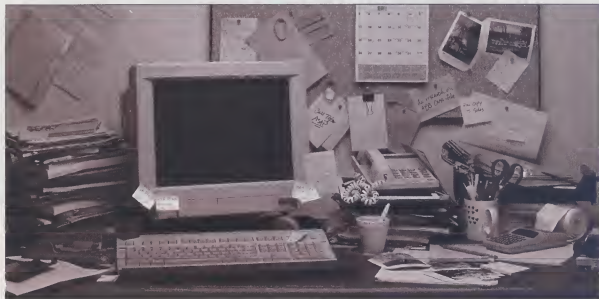
illustration by changing the shape of paths, without dealing with individual anchor points. On the text side, the addition of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean characters to Illustrator's core code yields an interesting perk for us English-speaking folk: You can now easily create vertical text strings and paths.

Those things are fun. Still, it's primarily Illustrator 7.0's adoption of existing Mac features, coupled with its better manners—including the ability to read all older Illustrator files from Macs or PCs—that make this a great upgrade and a truly professional graphics program. **CHRIS O'MALLEY**





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Bulletproof Online Backups



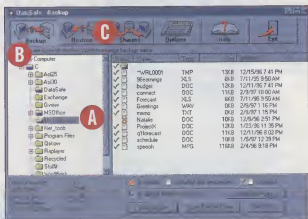
Back up your hard drive every week? Yeah right. None of us do, yet we all worry about the consequences. Let Connected Online Services (COS) do your backups for you—via the Internet. Not only does it take care of this dreary chore, but it also scans for viruses and automatically updates several of your applications at the same time.

For \$14.95 a month you can back up 50MB of new data. If 50MB sounds like chicken feed, bear in mind that COS saves files incrementally. That means when you add two more people to your trusty contact database, only those entries are backed up—equaling less than 1K. And you get 50 more megabytes every month, which is plenty unless you're dealing with graphics or multimedia files.

Setup was easy after a few minutes of orientation, although it's not foolproof—it's easy to overlook files you want to back up. With an interface that looks a lot like Windows 95's Explorer, you simply choose the files you want to save, or have COS select files based on the file types you want to back up.

This Just In While the beta we looked at lacked complete virus checking, the shipping version of COS will offer this feature, scanning any data on your drive and files you download. If you already have a virus scanner you like, just disable COS's. Connected also has deals with several software companies, including Microsoft and Netscape, to automatically provide you with driver and version updates of various applications whenever they're available.

Don't want to tie up the



Safe and Sound: Never lose your data again—back it up online with Connected Online Services. For \$14.95 a month COS will back up 50MB of files via the Internet, and you'll enjoy remote access to files, as well as virus scanning.



A. Pick and choose entire directories and specific files to back up.

B. Start the backup process with a single button click.

C. Download your work files from home via the Internet.

Nice Save: Hard drive gone south? For \$45 you get all your files on a CD-ROM in less than 24 hours.

phone lines? Any of the services COS offers can be scheduled for after hours. And you can either dial one of Connected's local access numbers for a direct connection or link up over the Net if you have TCP/IP-based Internet access.

Let's Share If you forget that all-important file at work, COS lets you remotely access and download any of your backed-up files, all of which are encrypted for your protection. The downside? If your file hasn't been backed up from work yet, you can't get it at home. COS does remote access, not remote control, so you download your files from Connected's servers, not from your work machine. Plus you need

two different accounts for remote access.

While features like file sharing and application updates are nice, the obvious strength of COS is its online backup. You can easily restore any data either by downloading it or, if your whole machine goes belly-up, simply ordering a CD-ROM of all your backed-up files for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. COS also keeps a copy of each incremental file, so if you need a previous version of a file it's easy to retrieve—another nice piece of insurance.

While the COS services are a good deal, they may not be ideal if you have more than one machine. Each computer you

FILEBOX

Connected Online Services



Verdict: Never sweat a bum drive or forgotten file again. For \$15 a month you're covered.

Pros: Great price; easy online backup; saves each incremental file; works with either a direct dial-up or via the Internet.

Cons: One account works on only one machine, so remote access requires a second account; no remote control since files aren't constantly backed up.

Competition: XactLabs Atrivia and McAfee Associates Personal Vault offer similar services but can't match COS's feature set and low price.

System Requirements: Windows 3.1, 386 CPU, 4MB of RAM, 2MB of hard disk space, analog modem or TCP/IP-based Internet connection.

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Connected Corp.
(800) 353-3078, (615) 237-0180
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back up data from is considered a separate account—an extra \$14.95 a month. That's an unnecessary expense if you want simply to back up data on both your desktop machine and notebook. Regardless, COS offers the most megabytes backed up for your buck. Unlike other online systems, such as XactLabs Atrivia and McAfee Associates Personal Vault (see "Back It Up Over the Net," March, page 97), you can back up your data as often as you like with no additional charges. On the whole, Connected Online Services offers more features at a lower price. If you still don't back up your data, you're now officially run out of excuses. **JACK LYON**



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\$3,199

Echos Pro 133D

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Make the Most of NT

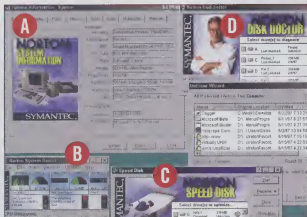
It's par for the course: If you're upgrading your operating system, you're bound to have problems. But every time you run into one of those problems, Symantec's Norton Utilities is probably there to help you recover—unless you're using Windows NT. Until now, you were limited to NT's anemic built-in toolkit.

With the growing popularity of Microsoft's Windows NT operating system, Symantec has finally released an NT version of its flagship utility package that fills in the gaps. The bottom line? If you're upgrading to Windows NT, you'll save yourself hours of configuration blues with Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows NT.

Eyes Wide Open The pivotal component in Symantec's utility suite is Norton System Doctor, which sits in the background monitoring your system. System Doctor uses sensors to gauge your system's performance. When specific sensors fall below a certain level, System Doctor loads the appropriate utility to bring your system back up to speed. It also works well enough as a rudimentary program scheduler, though support for third-party applications would have been a nice touch.

The Norton System Information tool goes way beyond NT's Microsoft System Diagnostics utility by showing you nearly every aspect of your computer, from the network configuration to multimedia support to memory usage. Although Norton System Information isn't an ideal diagnostics program since it shows much but automatically fixes little, it's easily better than anything else available for NT.

One of the downsides to



Fine-tune NT: Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows NT keeps your system running at peak performance. The best part of it, it's all done automatically.

A. With System Information you can view your system's specs at a glance.

B. Monitor and optimize performance using System Doctor.

C. Use Speed Disk to keep your hard drive defragmented.

D. Disk Doctor is standing by to fix any disk errors.



Tune Up: The new LiveUpdate program automatically retrieves and installs the latest updates of your Symantec applications.

using the native NT file system (NTFS) in Windows NT is the lack of tools for maintaining your volumes of precious data. Norton Utilities includes two disk tools: Norton Speed Disk, a disk defragmenter, and Norton Disk Doctor, a disk integrity checker that detects and corrects disk errors.

Disk Savior Since the NT version of Norton Speed Disk supports both FAT and NTFS volumes, you can defrag your entire system from one operating system. By using a multi-threading architecture, Speed Disk runs continuously in the background without giving you the performance degradation

usually associated with disk-defragging utilities.

Norton Disk Doctor, on the other hand, scans your NTFS volumes and corrects errors that were previously unfixable without sitting through a tedious CHKDSK process. Disk Doctor, too, supports both FAT and NTFS file systems, which means it can fix anything from lost clusters to invalid indexes and security descriptors.

Another problem inherent in NT is the lack of a proper undelete tool. Windows NT 4.0 alleviates this somewhat by including the Recycle Bin. Unfortunately, the Recycle Bin tracks only files that are

FILEBOX

Norton Utilities 2.0 For Windows NT



Verdict: Everything you need to keep your NT machine running in top form.

Pros: Prevents and troubleshoots common disk problems, fine-tunes system performance.

Cons: Not as many features as the Windows 95 version, Norton Speed Disk requires a significant amount of free disk space to fully defrag a disk.

Competition: Executive Software's Diskeeper provides more versatile disk-defragging options, but so far there's no other all-inclusive utility pack for Windows NT that handles both hard drives and system performance monitoring.

System Requirements: Windows NT 4.0, 486 CPU, 16MB of RAM, 25MB of hard disk space, CD-ROM drive.

\$99 est. street price
Symantec Corp.
(800) 441-7234, (541) 334-8054
Reader Service No. 613

deleted from the NT shell. Overwritten files and files deleted from a command prompt are sadly gone forever. This is where Norton's Protected Recycle Bin comes in. This enhanced version of the Recycle Bin keeps track of and recovers all deleted files, not just those deleted from Explorer.

At \$99, Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows NT is a bargain. It's also one of those rare programs that tries to do everything and actually pulls it off. If you're running NT or are thinking of moving to it, get Norton Utilities 2.0 for NT. It will make your life that much easier. **JONATHAN J. CHAU**



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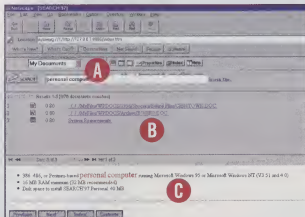
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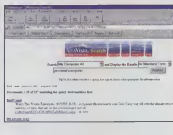
Both work within Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer to search for files and e-mail. And both support several file types including Microsoft Word and Excel, HTML, Corel WordPerfect, and Microsoft Exchange. Just as when you search the Web, simply type in keywords or phrases and up pops a list of relevant documents. Choose the one you want by clicking on it.

Show Me Of the two, Search'97 offers more thorough options. Besides searching for words and sets of words in close proximity, Search'97 looks for data in e-mail fields (To, From, Subject, and so on) and "zones," like any data tagged inside HTML documents; for example, <TITLE> and <H1>. You can perform concept searches to locate documents that meet all or only one of your search criteria, assign weights to queries, and specify minimum scores that documents must meet before the program lists them.

Private eXtension offers sound search functions of its own that look for specific words or phrases and start and end dates. You can also use wildcards to cover variations on words—for example, you



Lost and Found: Don't dally all day looking for lost files. Verity Search'97 Personal (above) and AltaVista Search My Computer Private eXtension help you find any file or message on your hard drive in an instant.



A. Search'97 lets you find files by typing in keywords and phrases.

B. Based on your search criteria, the program lists relevant files.

C. Simply click on a filename to view it.

Easy Drive: AltaVista Search My Computer Private eXtension makes it easy to find any file and view it instantly from your browser.

can enter *sing** to look for *sing*, *singer*, and *singing*.

Search'97 displays your documents in its own window via a viewer utility. Within the documents it highlights each occurrence of your search phrases and lets you navigate from highlight to highlight. Private eXtension does much the same (without the highlights) and conveniently launches files in their native applications. Unfortunately, Private eXtension also runs as three different programs, which can be confusing.

Speed Readers The most impressive aspect of these products is their speed. We had planned to measure the time it took for both products

to perform searches and display the results. However, both were done before we could start our stopwatch. This astounding performance was across our 600-file directory, running on a Pentium 200.

As you can imagine, especially if you're hooked up to several networked drives, both of these products require a hefty chunk of drive space for their indexed databases. But both give you the power to select only the type of documents you want indexed, either by file type or drive.

Which is best suited to help you find your documents fast? If you have hundreds of documents you want to access, or

FILEBOX

Search'97 Personal



Verdict: Find any document on your drive in a flash.

Pros: Fast searching; easy to use; built-in viewer; plenty of powerful search options.

Cons: No built-in scheduling; a little more expensive.

\$50 est. street price
Verity, (408) 541-1500
Reader Service No. 654

AltaVista Search My Computer Private eXtension



Verdict: After a little tinkering, you'll be able to find any file in a flash.

Pros: Fast searching; easy to use; impressive scheduling.

Cons: Runs as three different programs; difficult setup.

\$30 est. street price
Digital Equipment Corp.'s
AltaVista Internet Software
(800) 336-7890, (508) 486-2308
Reader Service No. 655

want to view documents created by applications you don't have installed, choose Verity Search'97 Personal. It's more expensive, but it's easier to use and gives you far more search options. Unfortunately, it doesn't have a built-in scheduler for document indexing. If you're looking for a simple and inexpensive way to find only your own documents, pick AltaVista Search My Computer Private eXtension. While configuring it takes a little more elbow grease, you have to do it only once. It lets you set up timed indexes to keep your search database up-to-date, and helps you find any document in a jiffy. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**



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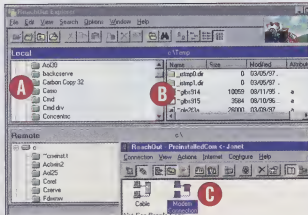
Office Access from Anywhere

It doesn't matter how much you prepare. The second you hit the road, you'll remember that key file you left behind on your desktop PC. But forget about pulling a U-turn, or even coaxing a coworker to e-mail it to you. With remote-access software like Stac ReachOut 7 or Microcom Carbon Copy 32 you can control your PC over a phone line, either by dialing direct or via the Internet. Either package lets you painlessly transfer and update files—and the in-depth security features let system administrators sleep at night.

We evaluated both packages for performance and features. Both ReachOut and Carbon Copy 32 did a capable job of making remote connections. But after taking a closer look we found some definite differences. While neither product quite matches market-leader Symantec pcAnywhere32 or Traveling Software LapLink (see "Reach Your Files from Afar," November 1996, page 108), both have their unique strengths.

Keep in Touch Both ReachOut and Carbon Copy 32 support modems to connect over phone lines, and NetWare and TCP/IP to make network connections. ReachOut also offers support for NetBIOS/NetBEUI. Besides letting you make connections across the Internet, ReachOut lets you control a PC using a 32-bit Web browser like Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. Carbon Copy 32 did something similar in a prior 16-bit version, but doesn't in this new 32-bit version.

We tested various remote sessions across networks,



Long-distance Relationship: Don't fret over forgotten files. Stac ReachOut 7 (above) and Microcom Carbon Copy 32 let you reach your desktop remotely across networks, phone lines, serial and parallel cables, and the Internet.



- A. With ReachOut 7 you control another PC and its applications remotely.
- B. Transfer files between PCs by simply dragging and dropping them.
- C. Configure sessions to connect via a network, phone lines, or the Net.

Looking Good: Carbon Copy 32 is easy to set up and use, but screen updates are slow.

phone lines, and cables. For raw speed, ReachOut was faster at opening our test suite of applications, and faster at transferring our test files via network and modem connections. Carbon Copy 32 offers more flexible connections so you can view and control multiple computers at the same time from one PC. For the most part, we encountered no problems making our remote connections.

So you can work with older machines, both products communicate with their earlier Windows 3.1 and DOS versions. ReachOut 7 includes Windows 3.1 and DOS versions along with the latest for Windows 95 and NT.

Safe and Sound There's trustworthy security in both products that includes password protection, callbacks, directory restrictions, and the ability to disable the host keyboard and monitor. ReachOut's more thorough security conveniently integrates with that of Windows NT to use the same passwords and usernames, and it offers its own data encryption.

In general, Carbon Copy 32 is easier to set up, has a friendlier interface, and comes with useful tools for resizing and controlling remote windows. ReachOut is fairly intuitive, but has some rough edges. For example, we had difficulty installing ReachOut on one of

FILEBOX

ReachOut 7

★★★★☆

Verdict: A handy way to touch home base via the Net.

Pros: Speedy performance; encrypted security; unique browser control; nice price.

Cons: Setup isn't effortless; some parts of interface aren't intuitive.

5139 est. street place
Stac
(800) 279-7822, (619) 794-3741
Reader Service No. 616

Carbon Copy 32

★★★★☆

Verdict: An easy and attractive way to reach your desktop if you don't mind going slow.

Pros: Easy to use; excellent remote-control features; lets you control multiple PCs.

Cons: Slow performance; lacks NetBIOS support.

5149 est. street place
Microcom
(800) 822-8224, (617) 851-1000
Reader Service No. 617

our test machines and had to edit system files to get the program to run, and we were unable to reduce a full-size screen once we expanded it. With Carbon Copy 32, there's a convenient tool to do this.

In choosing between ReachOut 7 and Carbon Copy 32, the scales tip toward ReachOut for its faster performance, browser-based Internet connections, NetBIOS support, and encrypted security. On the other hand, Carbon Copy 32 is a first-rate product that controls multiple PCs and is slightly easier to use. Either way, you can always work from a distance, and leave no work sitting behind in the office. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**

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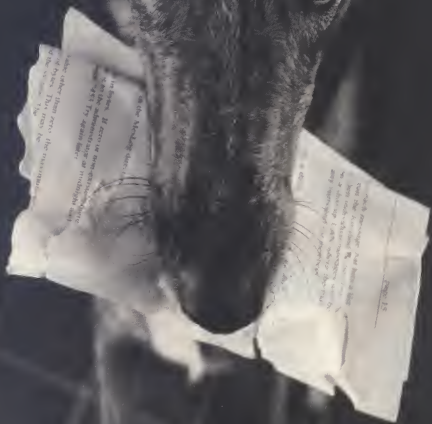
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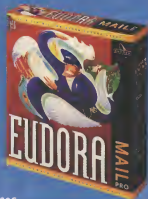


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Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 Platform Preview

The Future of Windows and the Web



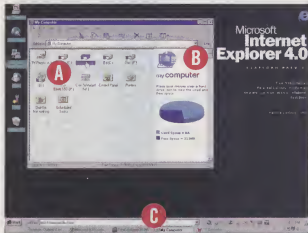
What do you get when you cross a Web browser with Windows 95?

That's the ambitious premise behind Microsoft's next-generation Internet Explorer 4.0 (IE4). Any day now, Microsoft promises, you'll be able to manage information of all sorts—Web pages, local files, e-mail, and network resources—from a single browser window. The first public release of IE4 delivers a glimpse of how this universal browser will work, along with all the bugs you'd expect.

Officials at Microsoft freely acknowledge that this Platform Preview test release doesn't even qualify as beta software. Expect several beta cycles before the final release appears sometime after midyear.

No Thin Client IE4 matches the Netscape Communicator suite nearly feature for feature. The package we looked at included a Web browser, Windows shell extensions, ActiveX controls, and a full suite of communication applications: the Outlook Express mail and news client; NetMeeting 2.0 for conferencing; FrontPad, a no-frills HTML-authoring tool; NetShow, a streaming-video control; and updates to Personal Web Server and the Web Publishing Wizard. The package supports Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 only.

With separate executables for Windows 95 and NT, our pre-release version included more than 46MB of compressed code. The final release should allow you to choose components, but we predict you'll

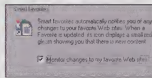


Browse It All: Microsoft's much-anticipated browser update, Internet Explorer 4.0, blurs the line between a file manager and a Web browser but doesn't erase it completely.

A. Files and folders appear as hyperlinks.

B. Web View adds graphics and extra information to folders.

C. Add new toolbars to the Windows 95 Taskbar.



Smart Favorites: IE4 automatically notifies you when anything changes on your favorite Web sites.

need a minimum of 20MB. Fortunately, an Active Setup program will manage the process and let you pick up where you left off if you're disconnected while downloading.

Despite its bulk, this release was far from complete. We weren't able to see the ActiveDesktop in operation, with its live HTML components; nor were we able to find a way to get to the Windows Scripting Host. The much-touted push technology that brings channels like MSNBC and PointCast to the desktop wasn't enabled either. You'll also have to wait a while longer

for FrontPad's Personal Home Page Wizard.

Power Browser At first glance, the IE4 Web browser looks much like its predecessor. The toolbars in the new browser are identical to those in Internet Explorer 3.0, as are the five Quick Link buttons, the address box, and the status bar. Once you begin pulling down menus, though, you'll find an assortment of redesigned dialog boxes and a few new features, including the Microsoft Wallet, which manages credit card information for online purchases.

There are dozens of subtle

FILEBOX

Internet Explorer 4.0 Platform Preview

Verdict: An intriguing glimpse of the future Windows and Web interface, but wait for more stable releases.

Pros: Free; nearly seamless integration between the Windows Explorer and its Web-browsing counterpart; excellent mail and newsreader; supports next-generation Web standards.

Cons: Desktop channels not yet enabled; significant bugs and missing features; interface likely to undergo further refinement.

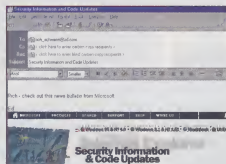
Competition: Netscape Communicator matches most of Internet Explorer 4.0's features but costs \$59, and isn't nearly as tightly married to the Windows interface.

Free
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www.microsoft.com/ie/ie40

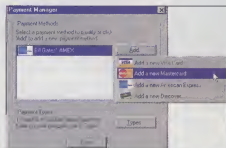
usability enhancements as well. The AutoComplete feature, which fills in previously used Web addresses after you enter a few characters, is lifted straight from Office 97. An improved search function keeps results in a frame while you browse the links it found, and you can right-click on the Back and Forward buttons to bypass the back-back-back routine and jump straight to a page you visited earlier.

IE4 also makes it easier to manage Favorites, collections of Internet shortcuts analogous to Netscape Navigator's bookmarks. And when you

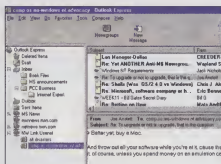
GUIDED TOUR INSIDE INTERNET EXPLORER 4.0



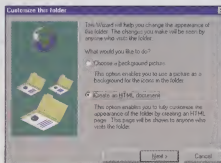
Easy E-mail: HTML formatting adds pizzazz, while encryption and digital signatures are two clicks away.



Payment Manager: Store credit-card information in the Microsoft Wallet, then use the encrypted card and address information for secure online purchases.



Newsgroups: Pick a mail folder or newsgroup from the tree on the left, then view headers and messages on the right.



Personal Folders: Give overstuffed file containers a face-lift with easy-to-navigate hyperlinks.

designate an address as a Smart Favorite, IE4 monitors that page daily or weekly, alerting you to changes.

Home users and notebook owners will get the most from IE4's newly added offline browsing capabilities. In IE4 parlance, you "subscribe" to a site, telling the browser when and how to connect and how many pages deep it should dive into a site. A menu choice toggles between normal browsing and offline mode.

End users won't see many of IE4's under-the-hood improvements right away, unless they look at Microsoft's site. Web developers will have to make an extra effort to support Dynamic HTML, which uses lightweight HTML to refresh a screen region without reloading

the entire page; there's also no guarantee that developers will flock to new IE4-specific ActiveX controls.

Shell Games Longtime Windows users will have to retrain their index fingers for IE4. The most radical adjustment is the single-click access that treats file and folder icons, including desktop shortcuts, as hyperlinks. To switch from Web browsing to file management, you type a folder name in the browser's address bar. You use the same window for file and Web browsing, although toolbars change to reflect the different environments, sometimes with confusing results.

IE4's Web view can display files and folders using a background graphic and an HTML template. With modest effort,

you can craft a template that filters out clutter, explains the folder's contents, and streamlines navigation. If you prefer the standard Windows display, you can easily turn off Web view. With the IE4 shell installed, you'll also see major changes in the Windows 95 Taskbar. The browser's address box can dock onto the Taskbar, as can additional toolbars that give users quick access to desktop icons, links, and folders.

Mailboxes, Etc. For IE4, mail and news features got a complete overhaul and a new name: Outlook Express. Like its flawed predecessor, Internet Mail and News, it supports HTML or plain text. If you choose HTML, you can edit and send a full Web page. Managing mail is easier than

before, because Outlook Express supports hierarchical folders and allows drag-and-drop filing. Mail junkies will appreciate the one-step access to multiple POP3 and IMAP4 accounts, as well as encryption and digital signing.

Unfortunately, Outlook Express includes yet another Microsoft address book; at least this one can import addresses from Exchange and automatically add address entries as you receive e-mail. Support for Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) makes it easier to find a correspondent's address, and support for public servers like Four11 and Big-foot is built in.

For real-time communications, NetMeeting 2.0 lets you connect two or more machines across a network or the Internet. You can then share applications, chat using text or voice or both, and use a common whiteboard.

FrontPad is a stripped-down version of the HTML editor in Microsoft's FrontPage 97 program. Creating pages from scratch was a challenge, especially given the lack of documentation, but editing existing Web pages was a snap.

Bumpy Road Although this early version of IE4 occasionally felt like a finished product, there were some unpleasant surprises in operation. We encountered numerous general protection faults and a handful of features that simply didn't work. That's not surprising, given the depth of changes this package makes in the Windows shell and in crucial networking components.

Still, it's free, and developers will find it useful for preparing next-generation Web sites. Our advice is to install this package on a test system only; wait for more stable releases before pressing IE4 into service on a production machine. **ED BOTT**

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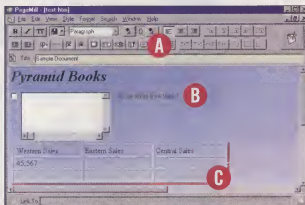
Drag-and-Drop Web Page Design



If you've ever used a wizard-based program to build Web pages—one that uses templates to guide you through the page-creation process—you know you don't have to be an HTML programmer to design a decent-looking Web site. But while wizards are easy, most don't let you view your work until you've completed every step. If you hate the finished product, you have to start over. The alternative? Adobe PageMill 2.0.

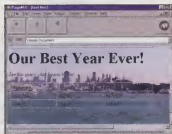
Taking the best that wizards have to offer, PageMill 2.0 also lets you view pages as you create them. With an easy-to-use interface that combines the most useful elements of a word processor and a Web browser, PageMill lets you create Web pages even if you don't speak HTML. Its powerful combination of drag-and-drop design tools; strong support for popular multimedia formats like QuickTime, Shockwave, AVI, and animated GIF; and easy handling of HTML tables and frames make it a winner for simple page creation. While it may not offer the hand-holding of the wizard-based HTML-authoring programs, it's a good choice for Web designers who like to make changes while they work.

Familiar Face The program's best feature is its browser-like interface, which offers both Preview and Edit views. In Edit view, PageMill works like a word processor. Want to add text to a page? Position the cursor, click the left mouse button, and start typing. To make a word or sentence bold or italic, highlight the text with your mouse



Think Visually: Adobe PageMill 2.0 works much like a desktop-publishing package, letting Web designers craft Web pages graphically. It also adds a variety of time-savers, including a spell-checker, drag-and-drop tools, and the ability to view HTML code.

Instant Gratification: To see how your page will look from a Web browser, simply click on the big Preview icon in the upper-right corner.



A. Icons provide fast access to page-design elements.

B. Make text changes, including font size, directly in the document.

C. Add data directly to tables—just select a cell and type in the new information.

and click on the corresponding icon on the toolbar. Adding a table is just as easy: Click on the table icon and drag out the appropriate number of rows and columns. A table then appears on your Web page and you can enter data directly into its cells. The end result? It's easier to see what works—and to change what doesn't—while you're designing the page, instead of afterward.

In Preview mode, PageMill resembles a bare-bones Web browser with large Back, Forward, and Home buttons at the top of the screen. It's handy for seeing how your page will look and behave

when viewed in a browser. If you add a link to another Web page in Edit mode, for instance, you can toggle to Preview mode and click on the link to see if it works.

Smart Links PageMill's drag-and-drop tools are top-notch. To create a link to another document simply drag the file from the Windows desktop, Explorer, or another program, and drop it on your Web page. PageMill automatically creates the link and inserts the file's name on your page. You can then type in a descriptive title instead of the full path and filename. You can also drag and drop

FILEBOX

Adobe PageMill 2.0



Verdict: Easy-to-use design tools make building basic pages easy—but Web pros will crave more control.

Pros: No HTML coding required; Preview mode lets you quickly view your work; spell-checker; drag-and-drop tools for adding Java applets to pages.

Cons: Lacks site-management tools and a mini Web server; no wizards or tutorials; no view of multiple Web pages.

Competition: PageMill 2.0 lacks NetObjects Fusion's excellent site-viewing feature. Also, PageMill doesn't match Microsoft FrontPage, which includes a mini Web server and easy site management.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 486 CPU (Pentium recommended), 8MB of RAM (16MB for Windows NT), 20MB of hard disk space.

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Java applets and other components onto your pages.

Unfortunately, PageMill 2.0 lacks a flowchart-like feature—such as the one in NetObjects Fusion 2.0—to provide a graphical representation of all the pages in your Web site. Also, PageMill doesn't come close to the power of Microsoft FrontPage 97, which adds site-management tools and a mini Web server—neither of which is included with PageMill. Despite these shortcomings, however, version 2.0's easy-to-use authoring tools make it a fine choice for non-professional Web developers everywhere. **JEFF BERTOLUCCI**





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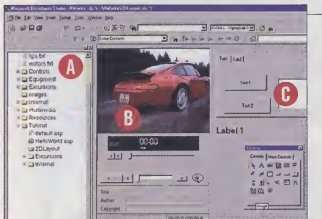
Make the Most of Your Web Site

PREVIEW There's no need to reinvent the wheel when you're creating your company's Web site. If you have a big database, use it. Already have plenty of graphics from previous marketing materials? Use those too. Sprinkle in a few pieces of ActiveX and Java, and you're ready to present your company to the world.

Easier said than done? If you're serious about Web-site development, Microsoft's new Visual InterDev Web Application Development System delivers everything you need. Part HTML creator, part database tool, part Web site manager, Visual InterDev isn't for the faint of heart. But if you need the tools to make a heavy-duty site and are familiar with Microsoft's other development tools like Visual Basic and Visual J++, this is the package for you.

All for One Think of Visual InterDev as the Swiss Army knife of Web builders. While there are plenty of great HTML editors, Java builders, and image-editing programs, Visual InterDev throws all the functions into one package. Beyond the HTML-building basics, there's complete Web site management, ActiveX object creation, image editing, client-side and server-side scripting, and even sound editing.

But Visual InterDev's real power lies in its database-integration abilities. Visual InterDev works with any ODBC-compliant database to help you create a constantly changing Web site. Want to create a custom-made start page for each of your site's visitors? How about a page that automatically updates once an hour? With a database-driven



Build It Better: Make the most of your company's Web site or intranet. Microsoft's Visual InterDev includes a collection of powerful Web development tools that handle everything from site management to database integration. Also included: tools for building ActiveX controls.

A. Organize all the parts of your page from one central location.

B. Add ActiveX components like video clips to any page.

C. Link a live database to your site by importing a few fields.



Custom Delivery: Visual InterDev's powerful database-integration tools let visitors query a live database and retrieve custom pages on the fly.

Web site it's a piece of cake, and that's Visual InterDev's specialty. While it works with large SQL databases, its integration with Microsoft database products like Access 97 is exceptional. For instance, Visual InterDev knows all the options possible with Access 97 and offers them to you as you integrate the database.

Total Control Want something a little flashier? How about using an ActiveX control to add some multimedia finesse? With Visual InterDev you simply drag and drop a control where you want it on

the page. Then just choose how you want the object to act, and all the code is written for you. The same goes for simple Java applets.

Finally, when it comes to basic HTML creation, Visual InterDev works much like Microsoft FrontPage 97. Unfortunately, it doesn't do all the hand-holding that FrontPage does. Although you don't have to manually type in your code, not everything is as automated or as easy.

That goes for the rest of the package as well. While there are plenty of places where you

FILEBOX

Visual InterDev



Verdict: The stuff professional Web sites are made of.

Pros: Integrated site management; graphical Web-site building; tight integration with several other programming environments; complete database integration; ActiveX and Java applet creation; simultaneous multiple-user support.

Cons: Most elements require a substantial amount of programming know-how; no remote site management; lacks some multimedia tools, such as an animation package.

Competition: All-in-one Web builders like Haht Software HahtSite, Macromedia Backstage, and NetObjects Fusion offer Web publishing, graphical site management, and database integration in one package. However, none of the others offer development muscle like ActiveX or Java applet building.

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get to skip the scripting, some programming knowledge is required. This package is perfect for large Web-building teams that want to crank out a whole new site in a hurry. The package supports multiple users, so more than one person can work on the same project simultaneously. If all you need is a static site with a few well-placed bells and whistles, Visual InterDev is overkill. But if you need a serious site that's going to make your competition green with envy, this is the toolbox for you. **SCOTT NAYLOR**

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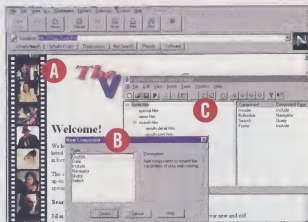
Hawk Your Wares on the Web

It's not hype: Electronic commerce is the next killer app. So how do you go about setting up shop on the Web? The Vision Factory's Cat@log 1.0 is the latest contender for building your own online shop. Like other e-commerce software, Cat@log works with your Internet server and an existing catalog database to dynamically generate Web pages. While it's a little more difficult to use than all-in-one builders like iCat Electronic Commerce Suite, it offers more store-building power at a comparable price.

Open for Business
Cat@log has four major components: Builder, Manager/Online Publisher, Commerce, and Customer Statistics. Cat@log Builder is the module in which you construct the site. It generates both your static and dynamic Web pages, including the forms and query pages. Builder lets you quickly navigate and organize the site using a visual hierarchy, and it's flexible enough that you can design your page any way you want.

Builder makes you use both a third-party graphical Web-page publisher and a text editor to tweak the HTML. While this is a core strength since it provides a lot of flexibility for designing your pages, it also means Cat@log requires a greater level of Web-building expertise than some of its more "push-button" competitors.

Cat@log Manager/Online Publisher arbitrates queries between your Web catalog and your product database, generating search results in the form of catalog pages seen by your customers. You don't work with Manager directly; it runs in the background, called by the Web pages whenever a dynamic



Big Sale: Make your online store stand out from the rest and keep close tabs on your customers with The Vision Factory's Cat@log. You supply the list of products you want to sell and the design, and Cat@log does the rest.



Sell High: Since your site is built around a database, customers can quickly find anything you're selling by searching or clicking through categories.

A. View your store as you're building it with any Web browser.

B. Use one of several prebuilt components to quickly build your store.

C. Visually lay out your store's areas with the Builder.

page needs to be generated.

The Cat@log Commerce module integrates Manager with secure, third-party payment authorization services like VeriFone. The package's most unique quality comes with the Customer Statistics module: It provides statistics on store traffic, customer shopping profiles, and the like—necessary information for anyone who wants to build an effective storefront.

Web Paint Curiously, all four components of Cat@log are sold separately. While one could theoretically deliver a site using only Builder and Manager, in practice all four components are required. In

particular, the Customer Statistics module seems a strange feature to break out of the product since it delivers information essential to the operation of any online business. And if you buy all four, there's a big bottom line—over \$6,500. That's on par with several of the other packages; but we'd rather have it all in one with a smaller price tag.

Cat@log's manual is well written and the product shows a lot of promise. However, there are some glaring omissions. Cat@log lacks complete remote-management features, so most of the serious site maintenance needs to happen wherever the server is physically

FILEBOX

Cat@log 1.0
☆☆☆

Verdict: A complex but versatile tool for putting all your wares on the Web.

Pros: Tremendous flexibility if you aren't afraid to do a little HTML legwork; outstanding site and customer tracking; open to most data types; lets you design any type of Web page around your data.

Cons: Confusing piecemeal pricing structure; lacks complete remote site management and on-the-fly inventory management; can require some heavy-duty design work on the back end.

System Requirements:
Windows NT Server 4.0,
NT-based Web server such as Internet Information Server,
32MB of RAM, less than 5MB of hard disk space.

\$1,950 for Cat@log Builder,
\$2,650 for Cat@log Manager/
Online Publisher, \$995 for
Cat@log Commerce, \$995
for Cat@log Customer Statistics,
est. street prices
The Vision Factory
(408) 488-3228, (408) 461-2100
Reader Service No. 662

located. Also, there were no native inventory-management features, which would tell customers a certain product is out of stock before they put it in their shopping baskets.

Presumably, both of these features could be crafted with a little ingenuity on the part of the database and catalog designers, but should you have to spend time scripting such basic features?

If you know your way around a database and don't want your online store to have a cookie-cutter look, check out Cat@log. While it's not the easiest to use and lacks a few features, it gives you total design freedom. **DAVID GERING**



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Get on the Net in an Instant

You're finally giving in. It's time to get your small company hooked up to the Web. Forget an IS staff. Forget hiring an expensive consultant. And forget doling out America Online accounts to all your employees. If you want to get all of the Net right now, check out Whistle Communications' InterJet 100.

If you have a small network, you have everything you need. Simply plug in the box and let it go to work. Within minutes you'll have a secure Internet connection, complete with e-mail, Web browsing, and your own Web page.

Sound too good to be true? Well, if your company is on the upswing, you may quickly outgrow the InterJet. Once you connect more than a handful of machines, its performance dwindles fast. And if you want to build a cutting-edge Web site of your own, the InterJet may not be right for you.

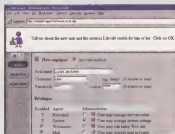
Ready to Serve Here's how it works: Call any participating Internet provider (including NetCom and several others), place an order for an InterJet, and request a domain name. When the InterJet arrives, just plug in a network cable and a phone line. All you have to do is dial the Internet provider and the machine is automatically configured. Then, through the included copy of Netscape Navigator 2.0, set up your various mail and user accounts.

Since a small-office network setup can be a bit of a Frankenstein, the InterJet is flexible enough to handle just about anything. It can use your existing Internet protocol (IP) network or supply you with a fresh group of IP addresses, or your whole company can work from one IP address, which means lower Internet



Small-Office Hero: Need to get your small office on the Net in a hurry? The Whistle Communications InterJet 100 delivers Internet e-mail, Web browsing, Web publishing, and firewall protection to your entire company in a matter of minutes. All you need is a network connection and a phone line.

Sign Me Up: Adding a new e-mail account is as easy as filling in the blanks and clicking on boxes in the included copy of Netscape Navigator 2.0.



access fees. Although the unit is Unix-based, it supports most Windows and Macintosh network protocols, including IPX and AppleTalk.

Hooked In Once you're up and running, there are plenty of things you can do. Since the box includes a copy of Apache Web server, you can post your own Web pages to the Internet or on your company's intranet. The InterJet's 1.2GB hard drive gives you plenty of room, and it comes with a copy of Claris Home Page, an easy but limited Web-page builder.

The box also includes a five-user license of Netscape Navigator 2.0 and an unlimited

license of Qualcomm Eudora Light, an easy-to-use e-mail package that's powerful enough for most people. If the software doesn't suit your fancy, simply go out and buy something else. Any IP-compliant client software works with the InterJet.

While the InterJet can do many things, it can't do everything. Don't think of it as a normal server. You can't use any special server software for things like remote file sharing, videoconferencing, or text-based chatting. Also, the InterJet's 33.6Kbps modem maxes out when more than a couple people surf the Web.

FILEBOX

InterJet 100



Verdict: The fastest and easiest way to get a small company on the Net.

Pros: Low cost; painless setup; all the hardware and software you need for Net access; upgradable to ISDN or T1 connection; firewall protection; Web-based management.

Cons: For small offices only; too slow for several simultaneous Web connections; limited Web-publishing features; no control over user access; no news/group reader.

Features As Tested: 75MHz 486 CPU, 8MB of RAM, 1.2GB EIDE hard drive, three ISA expansion slots, four-port 10Base-T hub, 33.6Kbps modem, embedded FreeBSD Unix operating system, five-user version of Netscape Navigator 2.0, Claris Home Page, Qualcomm Eudora Light, Apache Web server.

\$1,995 est. street price
Whistle Communications
(888) 494-4785, (415) 577-7000
Reader Service No. 663

You can upgrade to either an ISDN or a T1 connection, but that costs you extra. There's also no way to limit your office's access to the Web or e-mail. If you decide to go with an ISDN line, that could mean big bills if you have a few night-owl Web surfers on your staff. And while \$1,995 is an outstanding price for instant Internet access, that price may rise quickly.

If your needs aren't fancy and your small office will remain small for some time, there's no easier or more affordable way to get your company on the Net than with the InterJet 100. **LUCAS JACKSON**



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When it comes to notebook performance, the new Compaq Armada 1510DM really soars above the rest. For starters, it has a powerful 120MHz Pentium® processor and 16MB EDO RAM expandable to 80MB. Plus, it has an integrated modem and integrated AC adapter. Even better, the Armada 1510DM allows you to easily access your hard drive, floppy drive, and CD-ROM drive simultaneously.

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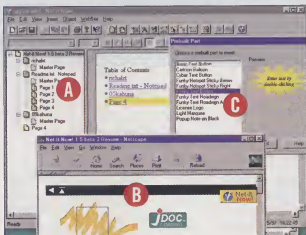
One-Button Java Publishing

PREVIEW Mom taught you that it's nice to share with others. But she had no idea how difficult it is to share desktop documents at work. If she did, then she'd probably recommend Net-It Software's Net-It Now 1.5. This workgroup publishing utility is the fastest, easiest way to share 32-bit Windows documents with non-Windows colleagues.

With a few simple button clicks, Net-It Now 1.5 converts almost any Windows document to jDoc, Net-It Now's Java-compliant file format. Then, any Java-enabled browser can view your jDoc file, which maintains most of the look and feel of the original document. And since it's all Java-based, it's easy to add interaction and animation for snazzy online publishing.

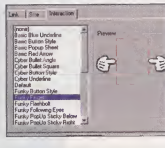
Fine Print After a routine installation, Net-It Now appears as a printer on your desktop. Unfortunately, it installs itself as the default printer. That's easily changed, but still annoying, especially if most of your print jobs need to go to a real printer. As a "printer," Net-It Now accepts any 32-bit Windows file. For example, it's easy to "print" a Microsoft Word document or a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet directly to Net-It Now. These documents then become Net-It Now files, and are converted to the Java-friendly jDoc format. While it sounds foolproof, there are a few glitches. For one, the Java language itself still offers only a handful of fonts like Times, Arial, and Helvetica. If your original document uses a different font, it is replaced when Net-It Now converts the document.

Also, since these documents



Make Mine Java: Having a hard time expressing yourself through plain old HTML? Check out Net-It Software's Net-It Now 1.5, a Java publishing utility that lets you transform just about any document into an efficient, cross-platform, Java-powered page.

Spice It Up: Forget about making another dead document. Net-It Now 1.5 lets you easily add interactive animations from a set of prebuilt elements.



- A.** Easily manage jDoc Projects in a simple hierarchical tree view.
- B.** Preview your jDoc Projects in a Java-compliant browser.
- C.** Add interactive animation to your otherwise drab documents.

are Java-based, they can't be copied, converted, or printed. A good thing if you want your document to be secure; not so good if you're trying to collaborate with others.

Homemade Besides converting existing documents, it's easy to create documents within Net-It Now using a wizard or from scratch. With Net-It Now's Live Art, you can insert interactive behaviors, prebuilt parts, and navigation styles. For example, you can map hot spots that link to other documents or Web sites. There are also

dozens of buttons, pop-ups, and cool transition effects.

Creating these Java-based documents, however, is limited to machines running either Windows 95 or Windows NT. Viewing jDoc files, on the other hand, is open to any platform that can host a Java-compliant browser—16-bit Windows, Macintosh, Unix, network computers, and so forth.

After previewing jDoc files in either Net-It Now or your Java-enabled Web browser, you can use Net-It Now's built-in FTP support to upload your pages to your Web server.

FILEBOX

Net-It Now 1.5



Verdict: The easiest way to share your documents with the rest of the world on the Web.

Pros: Easy to use; cool interactive animation features; easily viewed by anyone with a Java-compliant browser.

Cons: A little expensive; lacks local, personal Web server; only a handful of fonts; converted documents cannot be copied or printed; converts only 32-bit Windows documents.

Competition: Adobe Systems' \$295 Acrobat 3.0, Hummingbird Communications' \$195 CommCore Ground Publisher 3.0.1, and Tumbleweed Software's \$249 Tumbleweed Publishing Essentials 1.1. All aim to publish cross-platform documents (see "Publish Without Paper," May 1997, page 107). While all three have various features not found in Net-It Now, none can match Net-It Now's Java capabilities or its file efficiency.

\$299 for single-user version, \$599 for three-pack workgroup version, ext. street prices
Net-It Software
(888) 638-4844, (415) 551-0600
Reader Service No. 664

Unfortunately, Net-It Now doesn't include a personal Web server for peer-to-peer sharing. And whereas some basic site-management tools are included, large-scale projects might prove difficult to maintain. Compared with other cross-platform publishing tools like Adobe Acrobat, Net-It Now is a little more expensive but an easier way to go. While Acrobat is a better choice for high-end online publishing, Net-It Now 1.5 is an effective quick fix for sharing your Windows 95 and NT files with the rest of the world. **RICH SCHWERIN**



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

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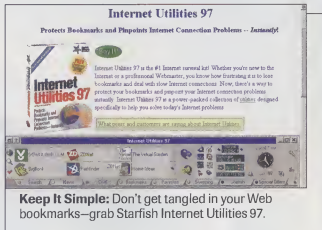


Organize Your Web Life



You've organized your files, your finances, your contacts, even your Windows 95 desktop. So why is your bookmark list such a mess? It wouldn't be, if you put Starfish Software Internet Utilities 97 in charge. Along with easy, orderly access to your favorite Web sites, this handy little \$30 utility suite serves up some cool Internet tools.

Internet Utilities 97 culls your bookmark files from Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer, then parcels the links—dubbed QuickMarks—into color-coded, tabbed dividers. Drag and drop QuickMarks between tabs, or use the Explorer-like QuickMark manager for serious organizing. But if you have more than a few dozen



Keep It Simple: Don't get tangled in your Web bookmarks—grab Starfish Internet Utilities 97.

favorites, the navigation may slow you down.

The ruler-sized window displays the local time and date, the duration of your Internet connection, and a graph of the connection speed.

Most of the remaining

tools are practical. QuickZip manages file compression; News Decoder manages binary files. QuickRoute visually traces the data path between you and another server, letting you pinpoint bottlenecks; but this data is of

FILEBOX

Internet Utilities 97



Verdict: Everything you need to get your Web surfing in order.

Pros: Puts favorite sites and helpful Internet tools at your fingertips; logs connection times; identifies pokey servers.

Cons: Eats a fair chunk of your screen; tabs not ideal for managing a lot of bookmarks.

\$30 est. street price
Starfish Software
(888) 782-7347, (408) 461-5800
Reader Service No. 665

little value since you can't reroute your connection.

Even if you're not wild about Internet Utilities 97's bookmark management, it's hard not to like the package. For just \$30, it houses a multitude of useful tools.

RICK BRODA

IFusion Com Arrive

Custom News Comes Alive



Stop that morning regimen of surfing to several sites to get all the news you want. Instead, tune in to a new Internet service channel that delivers custom content right to your Windows desktop: IFusion Com's Arrive.

Arrive uses music, sound, and plenty of other multimedia enhancements. And although dozens of companies are following the lead of Internet-based newscasting pioneer PointCast Network (see "Free News You Can Use," December 1996, page 147), so far none can match Arrive's rich multimedia design and delivery. The catch? There's not a



Broadcast News: Tune in to the eye-pleasing broadcast channel of your choice with IFusion Com Arrive.

lot of content arriving yet.

Arrive's free viewer is downloadable from the IFusion Com home page (www.arrive.com), but at 4.2MB it's nearly twice the size of competing viewers. PointCast Network's viewer, for example, is 2.6MB.

In this beta review, there were only five channels—CNNfn, USA Today, KPIX TV and Radio, The Weather Channel, and Epic Center—and only two advertising spots, which appeared in the Arrive Channel Guide. And most Arrive content, especially the Epic Center from Epic

Records, is so overtly brand-oriented, it's hard to tell where the content ends and the advertising begins.

IFusion Com promises 40 channels by year's end. But for now, Arrive has more style than substance.

RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

Arrive



Verdict: Multimedia-rich but relatively content-poor Internet-delivered news for your desktop. Stay tuned.

Pros: Free; slick audio-video-multimedia design; beautiful delivery of content; totally customizable.

Cons: Relatively few channels; some content, especially video, is bandwidth-intensive; client is nearly twice the size of other popular push systems.

Free
IFusion Com Corp.
(888) 277-4834, (212) 352-4500,
www.arrive.com
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Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

90% of all small businesses have failed.
(They're going to wish we'd thought of this sooner.)



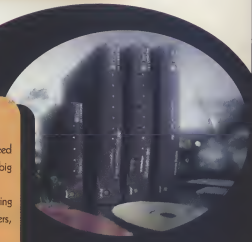
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Complete Web Toolbox



Your boss has been taking lessons from Dilbert's pointy-haired tyrant. His latest request: A Web site with lots of cool graphics, virtual reality, and Java animations. Oh, and frames and tables would look nice. Deadline? Next week. And a budget? Don't be silly.

With these demands on you, you have two choices: Quit, or get Corel WebMaster Suite. This collection of three major applications, five supporting programs, and scads of templates and graphics gives you the tools. Bundled Web-server software from O'Reilly & Associates gives you an intranet or Internet platform. And you get 30 days on a professional-grade Web server (www.page-depot.com) to show off your creations before the meter starts running at \$14.95 a month.

Power Tools WebMaster has two strengths: It packs everything you need, and its graphics tools are *powerful*. The photo editor Web.PhotoPaint and vector-based Web.Draw provide magazine-quality photo retouching and illustration. For animated GIFs or Java applets, the cel-based animator Web.Move incorporates actors, backgrounds, time-based events, and soundtracks into a single moving image. And the virtual-reality builder Web.World is easier to use than many of the 3-D tools we've seen, although it doesn't support all of the latest VRML 2.0 standards.

Each of these programs comes with ready-made graphics, characters, sounds, or models. But the real graphics resource is Web.Gallery, an 8,000-strong collection of royalty-free clip art that covers

Total Tool-belt: If you're sick of buying your Web tools piecemeal, check out Corel WebMaster Suite. The suite provides every tool you need to build a site, from database design to animation creation, and it includes a Web server to boot.

Missing Links: Map your site using Web.SiteManager, check the links, and click on pages to launch viewing or editing software.

A. Web Designer's toolbar full of HTML buttons protects you from handling tags.

B. Right-click on any link, graphic, or table to edit properties.

C. Click your way through tough elements like nested table cells.

all the backgrounds and buttons you could want. When you're designing a site, however, Corel's graphics strengths take a back seat to three big functions—HTML page building, site management, and database publishing. These tasks fall to three tools—Web.Designer, Web.SiteManager, and the wizard-driven Web.Data.

Build It Fast From Corel's 200-plus templates, you build Web pages one object at a time. Create a structure (using frames or tables) and text, then click on toolbar buttons to add links and graphics. Changing an object's properties (such as a hyperlink's target URL) is a

snap—just double-click on anything to bring up an editing box. Using this technique, you need only a couple minutes to convert a regular GIF into a navigational image map. When your pages are done, Web.SiteManager steps in. This flow-charting tool maps the site and checks all the links, internal and external. Need to edit a page to accommodate a broken link? If you know HTML, use the integrated text editor. If you don't, right-click to open the page in Web.Designer.

This collection has its shortcomings, to be sure. There are no sample CGI scripts for forms, page counters, and so

FILEBOX

Corel WebMaster Suite



Verdict: All the tools you need to build and manage Web sites, from eye-candy makers to file-transfer utilities.

Pros: Useful and broad collection of Web site tools from database integrators to Java animators; heavy-duty graphics utilities; plenty of templates, examples, and clip art.

Cons: CGI support doesn't include samples or development tools; doesn't support live databases; weak Java and multimedia components; site management could be better.

Competition: Adobe PageMill, Microsoft FrontPage, and Netscape Navigator Gold cover Web page creation and site management better, but lack many tools. Luckman Interactive's Web Studio covers the same bases, but with fewer graphics options.

\$199 to \$249 est. street price
Corel Corp.
(800) 772-6735, (613) 728-8200
Reader Service No. 667

on. In Web.Data, it's a pain to publish all your page records on separate HTML pages—you must step through the process record by record. Web.Designer's interface buries some of its better features: You can create Web forms that send data to an e-mail address, for instance, but who'd know that it's under the Insert Forms URL list box?

Still, WebMaster is greater than the sum of its parts. Its components aren't always the best or easiest to use in their class. But the collection provides all you need to meet tight production deadlines—and create some top-flight sites in the process. **MATTHEW J. LAKE**





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www.soundblaster.com

1. Maestro Tapping Baton.
2. Piano Keys Dancing.
3. Entrance Of An Oboe.
4. Crashing Cymbals.
5. Violin Vibrato.
6. "Bravo, Bravo!"
7. Deep, Rhythmic Grooves of a Cello.
8. Clarinet Scaling Octaves.
9. Audience Shuffling In.
10. Appreciative Applause.
11. Chord Progressions On Grand Piano.
12. Soft Strokes Of Harp Strings.
13. Chiming Triangle.
14. "Shhhhhhhhh..."
15. A Cymbal Brushing Lightly.
16. Cascading Clarinet.
17. Flute Solo.
18. Crescendo.
19. Playful Fartation Of A Piccolo.
20. Boom Of A Tuba.
21. Pager Beeping.
22. Loud Clapping.
23. Low Tones Of A Stand-Up Bass.
24. Violin And Viola En Duet.
25. Piano Sonata.
26. Wailing Saxophone.
27. Smooth Slide Of A Trombone.
28. Exclamation Of A Trumpet.
29. Rolling Thunder Of A Timpani.
30. Arpeggio On The Violin.
31. The Reed Section.
32. Pages Of Sheet Music Turning.
33. Piano Playing Minuet In G.
34. Drum Keeping Tempo.
35. Violin Staccato.
36. Tambourine Jingle.
37. Clacking Castanets.
38. Relentless Beating Of Drums.
39. Regal Sound Of A French Horn.
40. Snare Drum Rattling.
41. Xylophone Resonating.
42. The Low Pitch Of A Bassoon.
43. Cello Staccato.
44. Pulsating Viola.
45. Viol D'Orchestre.
46. Flute Ensemble.
47. Fluttering Of A Flute.
48. Regimental Sound Of A Bugle.
49. Plucking Of A Violin.
50. "Encore! Encore!"
51. Orchestra Tuning Up.
52. Silence Between Passages.
53. Harmonic Wind From A Flute.
54. Oboe Solo.
55. Soft Snoring.
56. Descrescendo.
57. Beethoven's 5th.
58. Throat Clearing.
59. Chopsticks.
60. Sounds Of Intermission.
61. Brass Solo.
62. Rattling Of Maracas.
63. "Wake Up, Honey, It's Over!"
64. The Final Movement.



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Keep Tabs on Your Web Traffic



Stop flying blind.

If you're not monitoring how people interact with your Web site, you could be missing a golden opportunity. We looked at two of the several Web site-analysis tools that tell you who surfs to your site and, more important, what they surf to: Marketwave Hit List Standard 2.5 and WebManage Technologies NetIntellect 2.1. Both products work with Web servers from Netscape, Microsoft, and O'Reilly & Associates.

Web-analysis tools work by converting the standard log files generated by your Web server into a common database format like Access or SQL. Once in a database, a good analysis utility turns the raw numbers into a nearly infinite variety of reports of how often, when, and even who (what domain) has been hitting your pages.

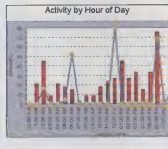
Unbeatable Bargain Hit List Standard generates, as scheduled, a variety of preconfigured and custom reports in HTML, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel-compatible formats. Hit List stores the HTML reports in the appropriate directories so you can access them remotely, or it e-mails report files right to you. The best part? It's absolutely free.

One of the trickiest problems of generating useful measurements in Web tracking is the abundance of dynamically generated pages. The \$1,995 Professional Edition 3.0 of Hit List shines by answering this problem. It stores the query string of keywords that generate the Web page. Hit List Standard is also useful for recording movement through a site by tracking entry and exit pages, movement from page to



You've Got Visitors: See what works and what doesn't on your Web pages by tracking your site's traffic with Marketwave Hit List Standard 2.5 (above) or WebManage NetIntellect 2.1. Both tools offer easy ways to dig into the who, when, and where.

- A. Hit List's straightforward toolbar includes one-button access to all features.
- B. More than a dozen different reports are available for site analysis.
- C. Need help? It's just a button-click away.



Audit Friendly: Only WebManage Technologies NetIntellect 2.1 adheres to BPA's Interactive Audit, a great choice to back up your advertising rates.

page within a site, even the time users spend on most pages.

Who's There? WebManage Technologies' NetIntellect 2.1's main distinguishing feature is its Organization Database. It lets you quickly identify the company and even domain contact information of a visitor by looking up his or her domain of origin. This lets NetIntellect generate general geographical profiles of visitors, which are relevant to advertisers.

NetIntellect's other strength is a preconfigured report that conforms to the BPA International Interactive Audit

standard. However, version 2.1 of NetIntellect lacks some of the page-to-page tracking provided by Hit List and, more lamentably, can't track dynamically generated pages.

For most, the freeware version of Hit List will prove an unbeatable value. Only those with more commercially oriented sites like catalogs or ad-supported pages will want to pay for the features in the Professional version. NetIntellect offers many of the features of Hit List Standard, but currently doesn't add enough value to counter its free competition. **DAVID GERDING**

FILEBOX

Hit List Standard 2.5



Verdict: Amazing insight to traffic on your Web site, and it won't cost you a nickel.

Pros: Unbeatable price; smart HTML-based reports can be accessed remotely.

Cons: Advanced features and broader support only in the expensive edition.

Competition: WebManage's \$199 NetIntellect can't beat Hit List's outstanding price (free), but Hit List can't match NetIntellect's support for BPA auditing. Also on the horizon: Microsoft's acquisition of Interse, a similar site-log analysis-tool company, could prove challenging to both Hit List and NetIntellect.

Free for Standard version, \$1,995 est. street price for Professional Edition 3.0
Marketwave
(800) 521-1176, (206) 682-6801
Reader Service No. 668

NetIntellect 2.1



Verdict: Keeps a close eye on your audience, but could use some more power.

Pros: Useful geographical analysis; matches some features of Hit List's higher-priced Professional Edition.

Cons: At \$199, can't compete with Hit List's free price; no support for tracking dynamically generated pages or page-to-page traffic.

Competition: Marketwave Hit List is free and includes many of the features found in NetIntellect. However, only NetIntellect supports the BPA standard and includes useful geographical analysis features.

\$199 est. street price
WebManage Technologies
(914) 697-7555
Reader Service No. 669



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

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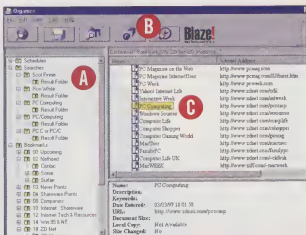
1. Cars Taking Off.
2. Breaks Screaming.
3. Hubcaps Scraping.
4. Crowd Cheering.
5. "Place Your Bets!"
6. Engine Seizing.
7. Hearts Pounding.
8. Refueling.
9. Wheels Peeling.
10. Breaths Of Anticipation.
11. "That Was A Close Shave."
12. Cars Colliding.
13. Backfires.
14. Engines Revving.
15. The Roar Of A Crowd.
16. Fiery Explosions.
17. Skidding Into The Pit.
18. Engine Problems.
19. Shrieks Of Excitement.
20. Vrrrrroooooom.
21. "Low Fuel."
22. Jamming On The Brakes.
23. Gears Shifting.
24. Ambulance Siren.
25. Sighs Of Relief.
26. Engines Restarting.
27. Traction Of Bald Tires.
28. Crowd Going Wild.
29. "Last Lap!"
30. Starting Gun Firing.
31. Hubcaps Flying Across The Track.
32. Tires Blowing.
33. "Hurry! Fill 'Er Up!"
34. Engines Choking.
35. Tires Being Changed.
36. Nuts And Bolts Flying.
37. Grandstand Cheering.
38. Gears Grinding.
39. Slamming On The Breaks.
40. Turning Swiftly.
41. Pile-Ups.
42. Tires Rolling Off.
43. Skidding Uncontrollably.
44. Loud Screams.
45. Crowds Falling Silent.
46. Collision.
47. Thunderous Booms.
48. Deafening Cries.
49. Quick Turns.
50. Sudden Stops.
51. Reflex Braking.
52. "Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!"
53. Engines Sputtering.
54. Drop Of The Checkered Flag.
55. Head Gasket Exploding.
56. Hitting The Wall On Turn 3.
57. Chanting A Winner's Name.
58. Creaking Of The Chassis.
59. Radio Static.
60. Loosing Your Hood.
61. Accelerating Past The Finish Line.
62. Champagne Cork Popping.
63. Congratulatory Slaps.
64. Wizzing Past.

Blaze Ahead on the Net

Someday you'll look back at your slow-as-molasses Web connection and laugh—or cry—because you didn't use a speed-enhancing utility like Datalytics' \$50 Blaze Web Performance Pack 1.1. If you've got the disk space to spare, Blaze's read-ahead cache is a nifty way to speed up your Web surfing experience, and is well worth Datalytics' free 30-day trial offer.

Safe Speeds Kudos to Blaze 1.1 just for being a Web accelerator program that doesn't overtax Web servers to the point that their operators feel compelled to block it out (see "Get Peak Performance on the Net," April 1997, page 128). Datalytics has made darn certain that Blaze 1.1 won't cause a firestorm of protest from Webmasters. That means you can use it without feeling guilty and reap the rewards of mildly improved page connections as well as of Blaze Organizer, a program that combines parallel searching, scheduling, and smart bookmarking.

You'll milk the most performance from Blaze's read-ahead cache if you set the disk cache size to 5MB or so. What does Blaze trade for its server friendliness? The primary safeguard is that it does only single-threaded reads. In other words, it checks only one link at a time. Blaze's built-in parallel-search engine is both faster and more accurate than ForFront Group's WebSeeker, Quarterdeck's WebCompass, Symantec's Internet FastFind, or Iconovex's EchoSearch. In part that's because Blaze translates your search query into the language of each of the eight top-notch search engines it supports, including AltaVista and Infoseek.

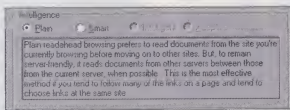


Surf Faster: Have Web pages waiting for you with Datalytics Blaze Web Performance Pack 1.1. While the performance features and interface need improvement, Blaze already provides excellent search, scheduling, and bookmark-monitoring tools.

A. The Explorer-like interface is a familiar sight.

B. Schedules, searches, and bookmarks are easily accessed via buttons.

C. Right-click on any of the items in Organizer. Many of the best functions are buried.



Look Ahead: Eventually Blaze will offer four different styles of read-ahead caching. The two grayed-out settings promise some intelligent caching strategies.

It's easy to name and save search results in Blaze, and to schedule automatic updates for them. Blaze even has its own dialer, so it can launch a connection to the Net, run a scheduled search update, and disconnect automatically. That's a handy feature, especially if you start your day going to the same five news sites. This way, Blaze downloads all your information ahead of time and has it waiting for you. Blaze also has a smart bookmarking tool that monitors sites and indicates when they've been updated.

One by One If you're the sort who clicks on a link every 30 seconds, the program probably won't have enough time to prefetch your next selection. Since it checks only one link at a time, it downloads only one page at a time. Other Web accelerators like Peak Technologies Peak Net.Jet download several pages at once, which improves the odds that the next page you pick will be at least partially downloaded.

In future versions of Blaze, coming soon, watch for

FILEBOX

Blaze Web Performance Pack 1.1



Verdict: A limited but capable shot in the arm for your internet connections.

Pros: Read-ahead cache won't anger Web server administrators; top-notch parallel-search tool; future server-side technology could offer impressive performance.

Cons: Read-ahead cache is no barn burner; downloads only one page at a time; interface needs help.

Competition: Combine a kinder, gentler (to servers) version of Peak Technologies' Peak Net.Jet, the ForFront Group's WebSeeker parallel-search tool, and the scheduling features of Symantec's Internet FastFind—and you get the equivalent of Blaze 1.1.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 8MB of RAM, 6MB of hard disk space, Netscape Navigator 2.0 or Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0.

\$50 est. street price
Datalytics
(888) 497-3282, (937) 226-7700
Reader Service No. 670

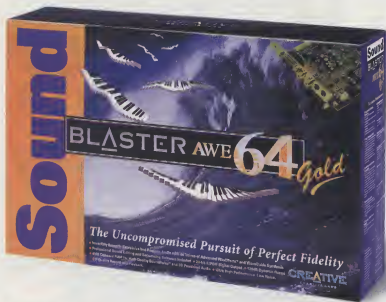
improvements to its read-ahead cache. Two new cache settings, Intelligent and Adaptive, will be added. Both settings boost effective performance by pre-caching links for pages that are more likely to interest you. Datalytics also plans a giant interface upgrade, something that's sorely needed. All in all, the Blaze of the not-so-distant future should address our biggest criticisms of the 1.1 release. And at least some of these new features should be available for download as you read this.

SCOT FINNIE



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30. Crystal clear recordings.
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32. Completely user customizable.
33. Automatic dynamic filtering.
34. Instant bass, treble, master volume control.
35. 2, 3.5 and 4MB SoundFont banks.
36. Two CD audio-in connectors.
37. Awesome audio.
38. Powerful percussions.
39. Superior strings.
40. Microsoft® Internet Explorer software.
41. Microsoft® NetMeeting software.
42. Rockin' guitar riffs.
43. RealAudio™ Player software.
44. Magic Carpet™ 2 software.
45. Screams from Eradicator™ software.
46. 128 general MIDI instruments.
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48. Creative 3D Copter software.
49. Total harmonic distortion (0.01).
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51. Lifting Irish tenor.
52. Creative VoiceAssist™ software.
53. Creative Multimedia Deck™ software.
54. Creative WaveStudio® software.
55. Cool samples included.
56. Creative SoundToGo® software.
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58. Viennas SoundFont Studio™ software.
59. Direct sound 3D hardware acceleration.
60. 32-level control for mixing recordings.
61. Talk over the Internet in real time.
62. 32-level control for mixing output.
63. MIDI Orchestrator Plus™ software.

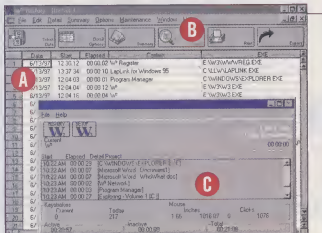
Control Your Internet Access

Are you a Web-roving, game-playing, bandwidth-wasting, corporate slacker? Beware! Big Brother is watching. Well, actually Kansmen LittleBrother 1.2 or WinWhatWhere 97 may be watching. They're just two of several new software products that monitor your PC's every Internet and desktop move.

As onerous as it sounds, there are a lot of good reasons for a company to keep track of what goes on at each of its workstations. For example, the most popular use of WinWhatWhere is for the quick assembly of billable hours from multiple project members. While companies looking to rein in unauthorized Web use should choose LittleBrother, if your mission is simply to analyze network traffic, WinWhatWhere is your choice.

Who's Naughty LittleBrother is far less ambitious than WinWhatWhere; its sole mission is to monitor and block unauthorized use of the Internet. It comes in two flavors—a \$295 version that monitors and reports on Internet, intranet, and company LAN traffic, and the \$495 LittleBrother Professional Edition, which also lets you block visits to certain Net sites. LittleBrother Professional includes a list of suspect site categories—including pornography and gaming—with free monthly updates available.

It's easy to add sites you find detrimental to productivity or block access for some employees but not others. LittleBrother Professional is so flexible you can even block access to forbidden sites during business hours but throw open the playground gate before and after work and during lunch. Both versions of LittleBrother spit out detailed text or graphical reports that



Internet Cops: Wonder how many employees waste the day away on the Web? Find out with WinWhatWhere 97 (above) and Kansmen LittleBrother 1.2. WinWhatWhere can be configured to monitor every mouse click and key tap.

A. The W3 History window lets you configure W3 reports in spreadsheet or database format.

B. Pick everything you want to track.

C. The scrollable screen gives you an account of workstation activity.



In the Red: In LittleBrother 1.2, green or gray bars indicate "productive" sites.

measure Internet/intranet/LAN use in terms of the most frequently visited sites and most frequent visitors.

Counting Keystrokes WinWhatWhere 97 doesn't just track employees' I-Way forays. This utility captures info about all the activity on a network. WinWhatWhere measures every keystroke on every LAN workstation if asked—even the cumulative inches each mouse travels.

However, WinWhatWhere lacks LittleBrother's Web site-blocking capability. It just takes notes on everything you and everyone else does and reports it to the designated head honcho. But on the upside, WinWhatWhere can help a network

administrator decide where software updates should go and how to balance loads on network modems and other hardware. It also provides an audit trail for PC security, so you can tell whether your workstation was used overnight and exactly what was done on it.

It's hard to love a piece of tattletale software. But Kansmen LittleBrother 1.2 and WinWhatWhere 97 have their roles, especially if you happen to be the one paying for the Internet gaming tokens. Go for LittleBrother if your needs are primarily monitoring, control, and censorship. On the other hand, choose WinWhatWhere 97 for overall network asset management. **MIKE HOGAN**

FILEBOX

WinWhatWhere 97



Verdict: Manage your Net traffic—and assets.

Pros: Reports on every aspect of network resource usage, even down to exact keystrokes; helps optimize network traffic.

Cons: Obtuse interface; lacks the Web site-blocking features of LittleBrother 1.2.

Competition: Besides Kansmen LittleBrother 1.2, which can't match WinWhatWhere 97's network asset-management features, WinWhatWhere competes with higher-priced network-management tools like Sequel Net Access Manager and Optimal Internet Monitor.

\$99 for single-user version, \$495 for ten-station network version, est. street prices
 WinWhatWhere
 (509) 585-9293
 Reader Service No. 671

LittleBrother 1.2



Verdict: Keep track of your entire company's Net forays.

Pros: Complete monitoring of all things Internet; can block certain sites at certain times or restrict access to specific workstations.

Cons: Ethernet only; lacks the network asset-management features of WinWhatWhere 97.

Competition: LittleBrother also competes with site-blocking software like Net Nanny and SafeSurf; both are initially less expensive but include subscription fees and are targeted at parents and educators who don't control network connections.

\$295, \$495 for Professional Edition, est. street prices
 Kansmen Corp.
 (800) 200-9881, (408) 263-8881
 Reader Service No. 672



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age has
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As a quick way to publish and access information, there is nothing quite like the Internet. In just a couple of years, it's transformed the way most companies think about doing business, and for a few organizations, Internet-inspired change is already dramatically underway as this new and flexible channel to customers, business partners and suppliers opens wider and wider.

Like many new opportunities, Internet changes must be pursued with a new set of tools and techniques. The old ways simply aren't effective: just as you wouldn't travel an interstate highway in a Model T, neither can you expect to exploit the competitive opportunities of the information highway with the quickly aging proprietary computing platforms still in use today.

After all, the multiple platforms that currently populate corporate information systems infrastructures are pretty much entirely incompatible with each other — nothing fits together, so exchanging information between them remains very difficult and error-prone. These platforms are also resource-intensive and incredibly complex, which makes them costly to buy and maintain and prohibitively expensive to update or expand.

But, troublesome though they may be, nobody can afford to scrap their huge investments in existing information systems. It is not practicable to toss out entire databases of

invaluable knowledge or retrain workers in new computing environments and techniques.



So what's
the answer?

The answer is Java™, an entirely new kind of cross-platform computing environment that first can be placed on top of — and work with — your organization's existing systems and networks, and then later can slowly replace costlier, less efficient elements. The result? A rational, significantly less expensive information systems infrastructure where, finally, most everything does fit together and is easy to maintain, easy to grow and easy for even inexperienced desktop computer users to master.

Java uses the Internet, but Java is much more than just an Internet language. In fact, Java is a programming environment in its own right and is designed to be used in applications that venture far beyond the corporate desktop, even beyond handheld devices like personal digital assistants (PDAs) and into industrial devices, toys, cars, cellular phones, appliances — anything using a microprocessor or microcontroller.

Because it was designed from the outset as a cross-platform computing environment that exploits the openness and universality of Internet technologies, the Java computing platform makes it easy to create an Internet-based channel to customers,



WHAT IS JAVA?

To understand Java and its implications, begin by thinking of Java as an applications development platform. Java is a portable, interpreted, high-performance, simple object-oriented programming language and runtime environment.

Java computing puts object-oriented programming to breakthrough use: it enables network computing by downloading nuggets of Java application code (applets) from server to client on demand, regardless of the platform. Sometimes the applications are stored in cache on a client hard disk, sometimes they're stored only in DRAM.

Shifting the center of client/server gravity

Since Java applications normally reside on a server and are delivered to a client via standard network protocol only when needed, client data storage is centralized on servers, as is administration and configuration control, and desktop client computers can become "thin" again. This sort of network-centric computing enables organizations to increase the cost-efficiency of their information systems infrastructure.

Crossing platform barriers in a single bound

How does this work across all those incompatible computing platforms? The answer is the open, standards-based Java Virtual Machine. Anywhere there's a Java VM, Java applets and applications can be dynamically downloaded and run.

partners and suppliers. With Java, your organization can provide selective, secure access to key applications, so those you want — your employees, your customers, your partners — have a Java based window into the enterprise for delivery of goods, services and information.

Extending the enterprise with Java computing

Ultimately, Java is an enabling technology for a whole new kind of computing in which the network is central and most desktop clients can simply serve as interfaces to the

network. Applications and processing power are distributed among many different types of computers in many different locations, and the network controls the flow of information among authorized users. Because they are Java applications, they are written only once, then run *as is* on just about any type of computer.



An end to obsolescence




The impact of this network-centric approach on traditional computing environments is profound, because it preserves the entire system legacy,

So Java apps can run in any Java enabled web browser, like Netscape Navigator™ or Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

Keeping it simple. Meanwhile, JavaOS™ stands in stark contrast to lumbering, traditional operating systems. JavaOS and the Java Virtual Machine can be stored at the client in flash ROM or can be booted from the network.

Standard, open protocols. Java relies on standard network protocols like TCP/IP (which is built in) but more sophisticated client/server protocols can be used, too. The Java Database Connectivity (JDBC™) protocol provides SQL-oriented connectivity to databases. More complex, three-tiered applications can be built using distributed objects with industry-standard CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture) protocols.

New kinds of clients. Java computing spans much more than traditional desktop environments. Java has been

THE SPAN OF JAVA: FROM PAGERS TO FAULT-TOLERANT SERVERS		
EMBEDDED DEVICES	DESKTOP	ENTERPRISE
 Cell Phones Pagers PDA's Palmtops Thermostats	 PC's NC's Workstations All Major OS's	 Database Servers Networking - Infrastructure

licensed for use in "smart" telephones with built-in displays, PDA-like devices, set-top boxes, kiosks, point-of-sale devices, even home video game machines.

Unlike any other kind of computing environment, Java offers an architecture that leverages enterprise computing investments across all platforms. If you want to revitalize, not replace your legacy systems, you need Java. And if you want to exploit emerging opportunities in Internet-enabled commerce, Java is downright essential.

staving off obsolescence indefinitely. Existing systems and data interoperate easily with Java enabled computers, so you can build Java frontends onto your current systems and take advantage of the benefits of Java while protecting your investments in hardware, software and training.

Consider: for your specialized applications requiring local processing power, you can keep your high-powered desktop systems and add Java computing capabilities without incurring *any* hardware replacement or restraining costs.

What's more, you can add Java capabilities now to large numbers of

Customer service applications at British Telecom are being delivered with Java computing to a broader business and commercial customer base than traditional information technology permits.

your proprietary PC platforms and standalone applications, then gradually supplement them with low-cost, easy-to-administer network computers or replace them at your business convenience.

And when you're ready to take the next step toward web-based commerce, your foundation technology based on Java computing can be extended and expanded as more Java based hardware and software products continue to emerge.



Designed for the future

Java also opens up an entire new spectrum of opportunities on the Internet, the web and corporate intranets. Most organizations venture into the Internet and web-based technologies by degrees.

First comes *web marketing* — an

external website is established to inform customers and prospects about products and services. Next, in *collaborative communication*, internal websites protected from public access by firewalls form a core intranet system used to inform and educate employees.

Business applications follow, as web servers to gateway systems are installed, enabling web-based access to business-critical data. This use can even be transactional — examples include employee expense reporting, inventory control, decision support.

Finally, organizations will participate in a *networked marketplace* in which internal business applications are mature enough to be released for customer or supplier interactions through extranets or the Internet itself. At this point, corporate firewalls can be opened up for true electronic

commerce, such as online shopping and online banking.

The Java computing platform is the enabling technology supporting each of these steps, providing an easily accessible, low-risk means of establishing a web presence, a secure medium for internal and external information exchange and the foundation for true electronic commerce.

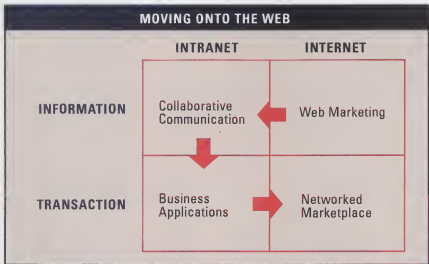
The future, long promised and long delayed, is here at last. On the pages that follow, we'll show you what Java means for enterprise computing, why Java makes business sense, and how you can start right now developing, deploying and managing Java computing in your organization.

Java in context: Starting with an intranet

With a little help from Internet technologies, Java computing can combine the best of both traditional mainframe computing and the more recent client/server paradigm.

Unlike the mainframes that preceded them, distributed client/server computing enables organizations to:

- Leverage existing IT resources,
 - Redistribute digital information to the desktops of a broad spectrum of users via local and wide area networks,
 - Use friendly graphical user interfaces (GUIs) to improve worker productivity and potentially access data in legacy mainframe systems,
 - Achieve high desktop computing performance,
 - Expand systems at comparatively low cost,
 - Choose from large amounts of off-the-shelf software applications,
 - Develop applications more quickly.
- Alas, nothing comes for free: distributed client/server computing has drawbacks, too. And a couple of the major ones are starting to hurt many organizations' ability to



WHY 100% PURE JAVA™ MATTERS: IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LOGO



By the end of 1997, industry-watchers say, there will be something like 100 million Java enabled desktops. And by the beginning of the next millennium, there will be 100 million network computers at work.

Why? Mostly because Java based network computing is platform-independent. Unlike other offerings that tie developers to a single platform, Java unites many platforms with a common language. The result: organizations can afford to exploit new Internet- and web-inspired opportunities with Java "Write Once, Run Anywhere"™ capability.

The danger of "captive" platforms

Since Java is an open architecture, anyone can use it. Today, Java is available on all major computing platforms and has been licensed for still others.

But Java platform-independence can be sustained only if everyone uses the same Java. Pure Java. In fact, we need a standard for 100% Pure Java™.

Why? Because contaminated Java loses its platform-independence and its abilities to ensure a secure computing environment. Which means that contaminated Java simply isn't Java at all. But some might still claim it's Java, even though it's a proprietary knock-off that can't do the job.

There are any number of ways this can happen. Take Microsoft's ActiveX as an example. Whereas Java makes links to components in other computing models, ActiveX encapsulates components, which thereafter can run only on proprietary ActiveX platforms. When Java is encapsulated into ActiveX, its cross-platform attributes have been compromised.

The 100% Pure Java logo: It ensures the cross-platform compatibility of Java applications

Many believe that genuine platform-independent network computing depends on establishing and enforcing open, non-proprietary standards for the Java platform. Both end users and developers need assurance that programs written in the Java language will indeed run flawlessly on any Java certified platform or device.

The 100% Pure Java Initiative, supported by more than 100 vendors, uses a variety of testing certification, technical assistance, education and co-marketing programs to guarantee compatibility in the Java environment.

Look for the 100% Pure Java logo on the products you buy to make sure that your organization's Java compatibility won't be contaminated or compromised.

What's it all about: 100% Pure Java defined

Only full compliance with the 100% Pure Java Initiative earns the 100% Pure Java logo. Here's what it takes:

- Written 100% in Java. The first and most obvious criterion for 100% Pure Java compliance is that software be coded entirely in the Java language. Although Java can resemble C or C++, pure Java code cannot include C or C++ code because the resulting applet or application wouldn't take advantage of Java cross-platform capabilities. With the Java Virtual Machine, the Java platform provides a level of abstraction that hides the underlying operating system from the application; neither C nor C++ do this.

- No native method calls. Attempting to interface native code with Java code typically compromises several key Java benefits, most notably security. Those who mix Java and native method calls have no assurance that code will remain virus-free after download. And if a native method has a pointer overrun or tries to access unauthorized memory, the result is a general protection fault. Products that interface native code with Java code are not eligible for 100%

Pure Java certification unless the desired function is also implemented in 100% Pure Java and included with the application.

- Conforms to Java Core API specifications.

The Java API forms a standard interface to components, applets and applications

and is the essential framework for application development. 100% Pure Java applications must conform with both key

components of the API: the Java Core API and the Java Standard Extension API. If a 100% Pure

Java Standard Extension API is used, it must be bundled with the application. The specifications for all Java APIs are freely accessible on the web at

<http://java.sun.com>.

- Bundles libraries or uses libraries included in the Java Reference Implementation. Libraries invoked by Java applications must also be 100% Pure Java or JDK™ libraries to guarantee that the applet or application invoking them remains 100% Pure Java compliant. The Java Reference Implementation is available on the web at <http://java.sun.com>.

- Passes certification test. A simple yet thorough test suite has been developed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. that will help ensure that certified products have all of the cross-platform attributes of a pure Java application. Each individual product that passes the 100% Pure Java test suite will be certified and become eligible to use the 100% Pure Java logo on packaging, advertising, websites and marketing materials. As part of the certification agreement, the software may be audit tested with updated versions of the test suite at any time.

100% Pure Java benefits everybody

Products that have achieved 100% Pure Java certification are written entirely in Java according to these requirements,



Continued on page 56



Continued from page S5

have been successfully tested for compliance using the 100% Pure Java test suite and have been submitted to an independent testing center for formal certification testing.

So when you see the 100% Pure Java logo, you know you'll get:

- Compatibility with all platforms, not just "Wintel," and not just the Mac. Users of 100% Pure Java products are secure in the knowledge that their applications are truly multi-platform.

- Higher-quality Java applets, applications and JavaBeans™ component APIs. The 100% Pure Java Initiative eases the transition to Java based computing, an end-to-end, secure network computing solution based on distributed Java applications and low-cost Java network devices.

- Greater satisfaction. With 100% Pure Java certification, it's easier to quickly recognize products that won't jeopardize your organization's cross-platform computing capabilities or the security of its transactions.

- Faster evolution of the Java platform. Clearly, the Java platform makes application development work easier. Java is a small, "knowable" system coupled with an increasingly comprehensive set of component APIs, so developers can build applications from shared, reusable objects.

The 100% Pure Java Initiative, supported by more than 100 independent computing vendors, defines an objective, consistent quality standard for Java software and publishing API specifications. Keep your future safe. Use only 100% Pure Java.

exploit competitive opportunities:

- Distributed client/server systems carry high and still-growing desktop management costs, due chiefly to their dependence on expensive networked PCs — so-called "fat clients" — that too often run only "thin" applications, and,

- A rigid application architecture limits the ways in which computers can add value when executing transactions, servicing customers, analyzing data and so on.



The advent of network computing

What's the solution? A low-cost, low-administration network-access desktop that couples the flexibility of client/server systems with the centralized maintenance and administration of mainframes. This is network computing and what it offers is worth noting:

- ☑ Centralized IT management,
- ☑ Low-cost, easy-to-replace desktops,
- ☑ Ability to instantly update applications on all network computers, thus eliminating versioning problems,
- ☑ Elimination of local administration of configuration files,
- ☑ Low desktop management cost,
- ☑ Scalability, allowing a comparatively high ratio of network computers per server.



Time for a thin client

At the heart of this merger of computing paradigms is the notion of a "thin client," a stateless desktop device linked via network to one or more servers. Everything that constitutes a state — the operating system, applications, data, integrity, etc. — has been relocated from client to server. While this stateless, thin-client network computer is skinny in terms of desktop management costs, it's actually remarkably rich in function-

ality. That's because of the Internet and the nature of the Java language.

Standard, open Internet technologies and protocols form a universal networking capability which can be easily inserted — if it hasn't been already — into an organization's information systems infrastructure. This ability to access every computer means the recentralization of certain capabilities — such as desktop systems management — again makes economic sense.

Meanwhile, just what can be effectively recentralized depends on software techniques that emphasize modularity, reusability, reliability and ability to function in a network environment. This is called component-based software and Java is its premiere embodiment; the idea is to construct applications by assembling reusable parts into new applications. Component-based software like Java consists of three elements:

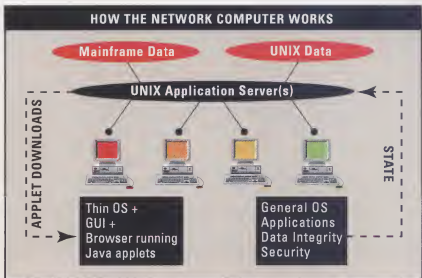
- **Components:** software objects, either simple or complex, that include some program logic.

- **Containers:** objects used to assemble components and provide a context in which they interact.

- **Scripting:** the ability to initiate and direct interactions between components.

In Java based network computing, the favorite container is a web browser

Java based shipping and tracking applications deployed into major customers' workplaces via network has already saved CSX \$6 million in application development, distribution and upgrades.



like Netscape Navigator or HotJava™, which includes Java container software, The Java Virtual Machine. Components can be loaded not just from a file server but also from a web server located on a corporate intranet or somewhere on the Internet. And these components can contain much more than merely text or graphics files — Java components can carry executable code, so data can be downloaded along with the code required to work with that data.



From applet to enterprise

These days, Java is used for much more than creating applets, those small applications typically embedded in web pages and run from within a web browser. Increasingly, Java is going mission-critical and being used to create full, standalone applications. For instance, Corel is developing a version of its Office Suite, including WordPerfect, written completely in Java that will be able to run on all computer platforms that support Java.

Indeed, interest in Java is growing fast and some estimate that there are already 300,000 people programming in Java. It's not hard to see why. The Java platform gives developers a powerful object-oriented language without the complex, heavyweight object housekeeping required by other models. Its compact runtime framework is easy to include in a range of devices, from smartcards to kiosks. Designed from the outset to be network-aware, Java support for the Internet's TCP/IP protocol is built in.

Java applications easily adapt to changing environments, since users dynamically download code from anywhere on the network. Processing is neither centralized nor entirely localized — it's flexibly distributed depending on the requirements of the

job. Java applications are fast, because today's processors provide efficient virtual-machine execution. Just-in-time compiling and Java microprocessors can deliver even more performance, while Java built-in multithreading means high-performing graphical applications and GUI functions.

With Java runtime system managing memory and inspecting all code before it's downloaded, Java apps are robust and secure. Component-based Java is simple to learn and use and speeds application development and turnaround, thanks to code reuse, easier testing and rapid internet deployment.

The advantages of Java computing

It's worth taking a closer look at how organizations can expect to benefit from Java based network computing.



Platform-independent open computing

Deployment of consistent Java Virtual Machine platforms enables you to run any Java compliant application program across the enterprise. Because Java runs on the Windows, Macintosh and UNIX® platforms, it's possible to "Write Once, Run Anywhere," giving Java applica-

tions the world's largest user base.

This eliminates the need to port applications to separate, incompatible client environments and it overcomes the lack of availability of certain application features and functions on inherently limited platforms. Also, organizations are no longer trapped into having to deploy incompatible platform-dependent applications.



Less complex computing environment

Since all code, data and configuration information are stored and managed centrally, computing life is easier for everybody: applications, data and infrastructure resources can be managed from one place. This results in:

☑ *Dramatically lower costs of administration and ownership.* One Fortune 500 company with 15,000 computing seats expects to save as much as \$100 million in hardware and software maintenance costs by switching from PCs to Java thin-client seats.

☑ *Rapid development and deployment of new applications.* "Write Once, Run Anywhere" Java reduces time spent on application development, testing and rollout, so there are more resources left for creating new added-value applications. Java developer productivity is two to five times greater than with traditional

languages like C and C++, thanks to such Java capabilities as strong type checking, automatic memory management and exception handling. This sort of instant rollout of applications on an intranet website permits shorter, more iterative application development cycles, an ability to react quickly to bugs and happier users.



Improved security on an enterprise scale

Java addresses several vulnerabilities of current enterprise computing environments:

- **Strong memory protection.** Java applications and applets cannot gain

unauthorized memory access to read or change accounts because Java removes the possibility of either maliciously or inadvertently reading and/or corrupting memory locations outside boundaries of the program.

- **Encryption and signatures.** Java uses powerful encryption technology to verify that an applet came from an authorized source and has not been modified.

- **Rules enforcement.** Java objects and classes make it simple to represent corporate information entities, and the rules governing their use is embedded within the objects themselves – the result is that the introduction of ad hoc access



Greater reliability

The Java language itself, meanwhile, encourages production of reliable, simple code. Its object and component orientation promotes re-use and library-building. Java also

FAT CLIENTS VS THIN: COST AND BENEFITS

In traditional enterprise computing, a client machine is typically a PC that runs a highly complex operating system and uses much of its substantial supply of memory and local storage to house an assortment of resource-intensive applications, including e-mail and other network access software.

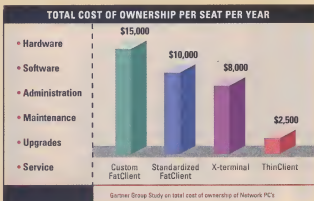
These are "fat clients" and they're rather pricey. The total cost of owning a networked Microsoft Windows-based PC – including the original purchase price, software updates and upgrades, configuration assistance, technical troubleshooting, and other needs – adds up to nearly \$12,000 per year, according to the Gartner Group.

By comparison, the same Gartner Group research indicates that the kind of "thin client" that Java computing makes possible costs just \$2,500 per year. Part of that is the original pricetag: thin Java clients need less local storage, since all code, data and configuration information are stored and managed centrally.

But there's more to it than machine price. Up to 55% of a PC's total cost over a five-year period, reports Gartner, comes from software product updating. This task is hugely simplified by the centralized administration and management that's a hallmark of thin-client network computing.

So just how much can an organization save by shifting from fat clients to thin ones and adopting Java based computing?

Compare the cost of a 1,000-node environment, figuring the cost of thin Java clients at \$2,500 per year and fat clients at between \$10,000 per year (standard) and \$15,000 per year (custom).



100% fat-client PCs	\$10.00 million
90% Java network computers 10% fat-client PCs	\$ 3.75 million
Potential saving with Java	\$ 6.25 million

How quickly you decide to shift from your fat clients to Java network computing will go a long way toward determining how much of what you're now spending on traditional PC environments can be saved.

promotes good software engineering practices, such as clearly separating interfaces from implementation and easily handling exceptions. And Java automatic memory management and lack of programmable memory management tools such as pointers eliminate one of the largest causes of programming errors.



Revitalization, not replacement

Java will save your legacy systems from obsolescence by layering on top of them a universal means of access and update. Since Java enabled browsers can display any HTML page, they can run forms-based HTML applications. With web servers acting as gateways to legacy systems, HTML can be used as a way to publish information within and beyond your organization so the right people — employees, suppliers, even customers — can get the information they need when they need it.



Incremental implementation

With Java, you can make the shift to thin-client, network computing gradually, as your budget and your business require. Given that Java works perfectly well on fat clients, too, once you've installed Java enabled browsers at all of your organization's desktops, migration to a network computing environment can be conducted in small, controlled steps without immediately discarding even a single computing platform or application.



Easier adoption of online technologies

Whether your organization is just beginning to move onto the Internet and establish a presence on the World Wide Web or you're marching toward full-fledged web commerce, Java

Balance sheet applications at First Union National Bank run under 3270 emulation on thin-client JavaStation™ network computers, to be followed by Java applications that access databases on mainframes and servers. Result: Total cost of computing has dropped from \$4,000-\$5,000 per seat per year to well under \$1,000.

makes it all easier, more secure, less expensive and more scalable and flexible for future growth.

What, then, can Java mean for *your* organization? Quite simply, the end of information system incompatibilities and isolation. And an unparalleled ability to adapt computing systems to changing conditions, because, finally, applications can be sent to users wherever they are, no matter what desktop computer or network computer they're using.

You've been hearing these promises for years, of course. So consider, just one more time, what it means to have such promises fulfilled. It means a breakthrough, stunning in its scope, an innovative yet safe choice that fully delivers on the promise of enterprise compatibility and connectivity — with zero client administration cost. And there are many Java choices indeed.

The need for 100% Pure Java

Java platform-independence works as long as vendors continue using the same Java and resist the urge to add non-uniform features that destroy its portability.

This is always a risk. In Microsoft's ActiveX component software strategy, for instance, Java applets are swallowed whole (encapsulation) and are no longer able run on anything but

Microsoft's proprietary Win32 platform.

In fact, the risk of contaminated Java is strong enough that more than 100 vendors, led by Sun Microsystems, Inc. have launched the 100% Pure Java Initiative that defines an objective, consistent quality standard for Java software and publishing API specifications.

Only products that have achieved 100% Pure Java certification can exhibit the 100% Pure Java logo. The logo's presence on software and hardware products indicates its compatibility with all other 100% Pure Java products. So Java buyers get better products and more effective network computing environments.

Java's many facets

A program written in Java can run wherever a Java platform is present, regardless of the underlying proprietary platform, without needing to be compiled for any particular underlying platform.

Each underlying platform has its own implementation of the Java Virtual Machine, but since there's only one Java Virtual Machine specification, the Java platform acts as a standard, uniform programming interface to applets and applications on any hardware.

An end-to-end solution encompassing hardware, software, develop-

Key business applications at FedEx are being browser-enabled with JavaStations that replace tens of thousands of terminals.

ment tools, management and administration tools, security and services, Java takes many forms.

and includes the Java Virtual Machine and class libraries, plus the system software necessary to run them



JavaOS

The first system software specifically designed to execute Java programs on web-based network computers, the Java operating system that implements the Java Base Platform is being widely ported to micro-processors, including the JavaChip™ family.

JavaOS is written in Java and includes the Java Virtual Machine and class libraries, plus the system software necessary to run them

without a full-blown operating system. Unlike other operating systems, JavaOS requires no filesystem, no virtual memory subsystem, no multiple address spaces and no support for multiple programming languages.



The Java Base Platform

The minimum that must be present for running Java powered applets and applications on network computers, desktop computers and workstations is described as the Java Base Platform. It contains the Java Virtual Machine

JAVA VS ACTIVEX

As more and more businesses come to understand the important role the Internet already plays in their competitive futures, a critical question arises: Java or Microsoft's ActiveX?

Both are object-oriented component software strategies — they build applications from reusable parts by plugging software components into some kind of container — but the capabilities they can each bring to an organization differ dramatically.

Multi-lingual vs. multi-platform

Like Java applets, ActiveX controls are self-contained pieces of functionality that run inside some kind of container. But unlike Java applets, ActiveX controls can be written in various languages (C++ is most common).

The tradeoff comes at the other end: Java applets are downloaded in a machine-independent format and

either just-in-time compiled (faster) or interpreted in any container with the Java Virtual Machine software installed (slower); but ActiveX controls are binaries and typically require Intel-based hardware that supports the Win32 interface — i.e., Windows 95 or Windows/NT.

Of security and sandboxes

For computing security, users trust their servers not to deliver malicious components. What else can be done? A couple of things: sandboxing, which constrains downloaded components from executing functions that can damage the local system; and digitally signing each downloaded component, so signatures can be checked by the local system.

Beside trusting servers, Java supports sandboxing and Java developers are at work on digital signing of downloadable components. ActiveX offers digital signing, too, but since ActiveX controls have full access to a computer's operating system, files and applications, sandboxing is not an option, and users still could end up with ActiveX controls that behave like viruses or act maliciously.

COMPARING JAVA AND ACTIVEX

JAVA		ACTIVEX	
PRO	CON	PRO	CON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Works across many types of platform ↳ Components are reusable ↳ Programs written once can be run on many diverse machines ↳ Users safe from rogue code ↳ Fast-growing support from software vendors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Young technology ↳ Small installed base ↳ Not well understood ↳ Requires knowledge of the programming language—however, Java visual tools are coming to market that enable developers to work in Java without knowledge of the Java programming language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Runs in all Windows applications ↳ Extends existing technology for using software objects ↳ Has support from software vendors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Runs only in Windows ↳ Large components (ActiveX controls) ↳ Much code is not reusable ↳ Users could download viruses, rogue code

and a minimal API set — known as the Java Base API or the Java Applet API — to run basic applets and applications. Developers writing to this minimum set can feel secure that their Java programs will run anywhere without need for additional class libraries.



The Java Virtual Machine

A "soft" machine that can be implemented in either hardware or software, the Java Virtual Machine is an abstract computer designed to reside atop existing processors. Its porting interface and adapters enable it to be easily ported to new operating systems without being completely rewritten.



Java APIs

The Java platform has been extended beyond the Java Core API with the Java Standard Extension API, which is a published, uniform, open standard available to anyone wishing to implement an extension. As Java APIs continue to proliferate, some of the Standard Extension API will migrate to the Core API. Together, these form a standard interface to applets and applications, and they're the essential framework for Java application development.

JavaBeans™ enhance the Java platform still further by facilitating richer, more dynamic interactions between components. JavaBeans can be implemented in web browsers or as standalone applications by layering them on top of existing environments. The actual implementation is hidden by the JavaBeans APIs, so developers can write application components without regard to the platform on which the component will eventually run, since the code is portable among all Java enabled platforms.

The JavaBeans specification defines

a set of standard, device- and operating system-independent component software APIs for the Java Platform. Designed by a partnership of industry leaders, JavaBeans is the ideal choice for developing or assembling network-aware solutions for heterogeneous hardware and operating system environments — within the enterprise or across the Internet.

A JavaBeans component can be anything from a GUI widget to a robust component to a full-scale application. Because it'll run on any platform with a Java Virtual Machine, a JavaBeans component can be reused everywhere, incorporated into multiple solutions without the need to rewrite a single line of code.

JavaBeans component software integrates seamlessly with other industry component models, such as ActiveX, with no additional development required. And this interoperability is free, via a Sun Microsystems-developed ActiveX control called the JavaBeans Bridge for ActiveX, which lets JavaBeans run in legacy ActiveX containers like Microsoft Office and Visual Basic.

A wide range of JavaBeans resources and rapid application development tools are already available. You can leverage a growing array of outstanding tools for the enterprise, the web and commercial development, including IBM's AppletAuthor and VisualAge for Java, Powersoft's Jato, Java™ Workshop™ and Project Studio from Sun Microsystems, Inc. JBuilder from Borland, Visual Cafe from Symantec, and Mojo from Penumbra Software.



The Java language

As professional programming languages go, Java is simple, flexible and powerful. Source code written in Java can call an assortment of APIs. Java enables developers to do several kinds of things critical to enterprise computing and encourages catching bugs early, during design and development. Its multithreading capabilities will enable a new generation of concurrent applications and services.



HotJava Browser

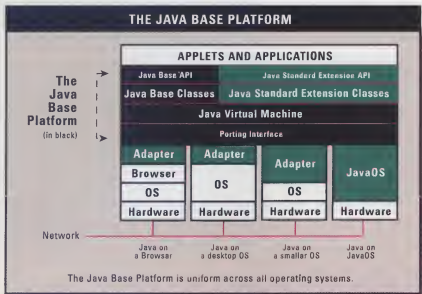
The first major application created using the Java language and its runtime system, the HotJava Browser is a highly-customizable, extensible web browser. Users can easily modify the user interface to provide their own look and feel.

HotJava Browser accesses applications in a new way: software migrates

COMPANIES LICENSING THE JAVA BASE PLATFORM TO EMBED IN OPERATING SYSTEMS

Windows	Microsoft Corp. IBM Corp.	Windows 95, NT Windows 3.1
Macintosh	Apple Computer	Mac OS
OS/2	IBM Corp.	OS/2
UNIX	Hewlett-Packard Hitachi Ltd. IBM Corp. Silicon Graphics SunSoft, Sun Microsystems The Santa Cruz Operation Tandem Computers	HPUX Hitachi OS AIX Irix Solaris™ UnixWare Non-Stop Kernel
Network OS	Novell	NetWare 4.0
Mainframe OS	IBM Corp.	MVS

transparently across the network as it's needed. No longer does software have to be "installed." Although HotJava Browser is very small, since all of the protocol and data handlers are brought



in from the outside, its ability to seamlessly deliver dynamic content, dynamic data types and dynamic protocols means content creators now have an entirely new tool to use in the fast-emerging worlds of electronic commerce and education.



Java Development Kit

You can develop both applets to run in browsers supporting JDK 1.1 (such as HotJava and Netscape Navigator) and Microsoft Internet Explorer) as well as standalone Java applications with JDK 1.1, which now features JavaBeans, database connectivity and enhancements to security, networking and performance.

JDK 1.1 includes a runtime version with interpreter and core classes, tools (including source files, compiler, debugger and much more) documentation and demos.



JavaStation

Sun Microsystems' new line of Java enabled network computers,

JavaStation systems, are optimized for Java computing and can serve as both interfaces and nodes in a Java enabled network. JavaStations have significant local processing power and take advantage of the network for all storage requirements, minimizing cost and maximizing network resources.



JavaChip family

Java processors offer significant advantages over general-purpose microprocessors in terms of performance, power and cost optimization:

- *picoJava™* is designed to be the industry's best price/performance silicon fabrication supporting the Java Virtual Machine specification and will be used in cell phones, printers and other business and consumer products.

- *microJava™* adds I/O, memory, communications and control functions to the picoJava core. Controllers, service station kiosks, telecom carrier equipment and the like will use microJava chips.

- *UltraJava™* leverages advanced



Of partnership and value added

In addition to Java development efforts by Sun Microsystems, Inc. and JavaSoft, many other vendors have grasped the breakthrough significance of Java and are hard at work on Java enabled products that exploit the competitive advantages of web-based network computing and electronic commerce. The list of Java committed vendors is long, distinguished and getting longer.

Java computing with 100% Pure Java opens up a whole new spectrum of opportunities and possibilities for your company. It's a true breakthrough in technology that enables your business to create breakaway success strategies.

Network computing is here, solving some of the most challenging problems that enterprises face. A complete, end-to-end network computing solution, Java computing is more than a single breakthrough, it's a series of innovations that carry the future of enterprise computing.

Now is the time to carefully consider the possibilities and opportunities that Java computing opens up for your organization.



JAVA™

For more information about Sun Microsystems, Inc., JavaSoft or the 100% Pure Java Initiative, please visit our website at <http://java.sun.com> or <http://www.javasoft.com> or call 1-800-PURE JAVA.

The MMX-Files

BY RON WHITE

MMX—another of those mysterious computer acronyms—is, of course, Intel's latest attempt to prove the notion that no matter when you buy a PC, in six months it's going to be as outdated as a mood ring. Conspiracy? Probably not, but right now PC makers are jumping on the MMX bandwagon like it's the last stage out of Hell City. By Christmas you'll have to look hard to find a new PC that doesn't have the Pentium MMX chip under its hide. And really, that's good. You may hear some bad-mouthing about how inelegant it is of MMX to raid the floating-point coprocessor's transistors. That's mostly unfounded wirehead talk. I've seen MMX in action. It's here to stay, and you should be happy it is.



REBEL MOON RISING

★★★★★

To see for yourself what a difference MMX technology makes, surf to www.fenriswolf.com and download a demo copy of Rebel Moon Rising. After you have it running and you've played with the guns and jet pack, type in this: fwbarney. The numbers that appear in the upper-right corner of the screen tell you the current frame rate, using MMX. If you want to see how the game performs without MMX, type in fwjack and watch the frame rate drop dramatically. (Type fwjack to get back to MMX play.) But you don't need the numbers. Without MMX, the game is jerky and halting. With MMX, the action and the background movement are as smooth as a Bill Clinton alibi. As if MMX weren't cool enough, Rebel Moon Rising uses speech recognition. If you're battling in a multiplayer version, you can shout commands that only your teammates hear, or threats that only enemy players receive. The game itself is a must-have, with or without MMX. But MMX gives you the full monster-bashing experience.

Rebel Moon Rising / GT Interactive Software / (800) 810-4847, (212) 728-6500 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 676



G-NOME

★★★★

You don't get to toggle MMX on and off in G-Nome, but you won't have time to anyway in this heads-up game. G-Nome combines mechanical warfare with 3-D combat, battlefield strategy, and multiplayer capability, and the result is greater than the sum of . . . uh, whatever. I ran G-Nome on two 3-D-accelerated PCs, one MMX and one not. The non-MMX version was fine—until I ran the MMX edition. Then using the conventional version was like trudging through quicksand. Either way it's a great game with some cool touches. If your mechanical warrior gets toasted, you jump out and battle the monsters on foot. Plus, the enemy has artificial intelligence that matches your most ingenious team play. G-Nome changes the ground rules for mech games.

G-Nome / 7th Level / (800) 884-8863, (972) 498-8100 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 677



MM Mechs: Fight fast-paced robot wars in G-Nome.



INDEPENDENCE DAY: THE GAME

★★★★

Forget Jeff Goldblum. You don't have to be a nerd with a PowerBook to fight extraterrestrial invaders. All you need is this CD and . . . wait a minute. That's wrong. You *do* need to be a computer nerd to fight extraterrestrials, but with Independence Day: The Game, you can be a nerd with a desktop MMX PC fighting extraterrestrial invaders. This single/multiplayer game (which also runs on non-MMX systems) is Fury with a movie tie-in. It also shows that technology and Hollywood don't necessarily make for great computer games. The MMX effect is most evident in a booming sound track that will finally justify those Bose speakers you added to your PC. There are more subtle effects in the visual details. And I'm not saying I didn't spend more time battling aliens than I should have for someone behind on deadline. But there are no great strides here, no paradigm shift. (Sorry.)

Independence Day: The Game / Fox Interactive / (970) 522-3369 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 679



POD

★★★★

Anyone who buys an MMX PC these days is likely to get a copy of POD. This racing game is a favorite bundle to show off MMX for video, speed, and sound. (To see what POD is like without MMX, download the shareware Pentium

Ratings: ★★★★★ The Truth. ★★★★ Bigfoot encounter. ★★★ Alien Autopsy film. ★★ Men in black. ★ Implant in your neck.



Green Flag: Put the pedal to the MMX metal in POD.

120MHz version at www.ubisoft.com.) I'm not usually a fan of racing games because the cars are impossible to control. And even if you keep the car on the highway, it's just driving. But thanks to MMX, POD responds instantly and uses Dolby Surround Sound, which lets you know, for example, when another car comes up behind you. I couldn't test that, though, because I never got ahead of anyone. A real 3-D environment helps alleviate the boredom of the road. If you want to drive the wrong way, you can. You also get a selection of racetracks and wicked racers, and powerful networking features. My only complaint: no guns.

POD / Ubisoft Entertainment / (800) 824-7638, (415) 547-4000 / \$50 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 678*



ERASER TURNABOUT ○

At least Independence Day is a rip of a great game and a decent science-fiction flick. Eraser Turnabout owes allegiance to a Schwarzenegger flop and computer games that were new on an Atari 400. Even MMX can't rescue it. The idea is that you're an "eraser," and your job consists entirely of solving puzzles, shooting bad guys who pop up in windows, and taking wholly pointless psychological tests. The game hypes its use of MMX video and photographic images, but the graphics are total yawns. Add to this the tectonically slow responses to your actions, and I can't remember when a new technology has been done such a disservice. I double-checked to make sure I wasn't using the non-MMX version. I wasn't. This one is just a bomb.

Eraser Turnabout / Imagination Pilots / (415) 767-8890 ext. 2188 / \$40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 680*



THE TIMETABLES OF TECHNOLOGY ○

Aw, now this is just plain sad. I was looking forward to this CD because it has real potential. Instead, MMX, the latest in technology, has been used to create the latest in confusing, awkward interfaces. MMX lets you fly through a 3-D timetable to find a significant moment in time. Sounds like fun, but it's harder to maneuver than Flight Simulator. Individual moments are as pointless and out of context as "single-backed points and burins characterize the Gravelian tool assemblage found throughout most of Europe circa 26,000 BC." And there's no photo to show what that means. Even when the CD tries to be accessible with some animation, there's still something off-putting and stuffy about the presentation. Too bad.

The Timetables of Technology / Byron Preiss Multimedia / (800) 945-3155, (212) 989-6252 / \$30 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 682*



SPACE STATION SIMULATOR ○○○○

Are kids today still fascinated by space flight, or is it just we boomers who grew up during the heyday of Sputnik? If would-be space cadets still daydream, Space Station Simulator is the stuff of their imagination. Based on actual space-station modules, the CD uses MMX to let you spin and turn the modules through three dimensions as easily as a top. Better still, you can link the modules together to create your own Rube Goldberg International Space Station. Then tour the inside of your construction or take a space walk outside it. If you're a kid dreaming of becoming an astronaut—or a middle-aged couch potato whose dreams of space travel are blocked by a



Up, Up, and Away: Take flight with Space Station Simulator.

waistline that'd never get through the pod bay doors—this is as close to the stars as you may ever get.

Space Station Simulator / Maris Multimedia / (800) 336-2947, (415) 492-2819 / \$36 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 687*



Head Games: Get inside your head with MMX in Ultimate Human Body.



THE ULTIMATE HUMAN BODY 2.0 ○○○○

In The Ultimate Human Body 2.0, MMX adds some moderate punch to an already super CD. The Ultimate Human Body is still a highly visual explanation of how the body works. The MMX shows up in 3-D cutaways that you can zoom in on, twist, and rotate. Motion under the MMX influence is smooth and fluid, what you'd expect on a costly graphics workstation. The Ultimate Human Body demonstrates that MMX itself doesn't make for a great CD, but it makes a great CD better still.

The Ultimate Human Body 2.0 / DK Multimedia / (800) 356-6575, (212) 213-4800 / \$40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 685*



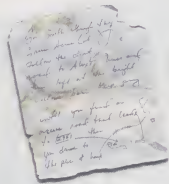
VISUAL HOME ○○○○○

It's a nifty idea—a CD program that lets you remodel your home onscreen before you commit to the real thing. Problem is, in the original version (see CD-RON, March, page 106) you could build a second floor faster than you could do a virtual-reality walk-through, unless in your reality everyone moves slower than the speed of sludge. MMX helps bring your VR kitchen tour into real-time movement, but just barely. Still, it's a significant improvement. If you're into virtual remodeling, you'll want a program as good as Visual Home and you'll want the MMX version.

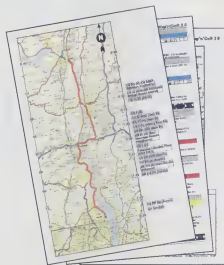
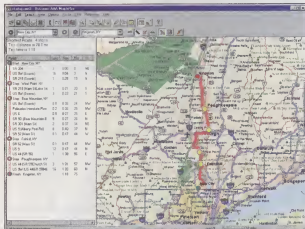
Visual Home / Books That Work / (800) 242-4546, (415) 328-4280 / \$40 est. street price / *Reader Service No. 684*

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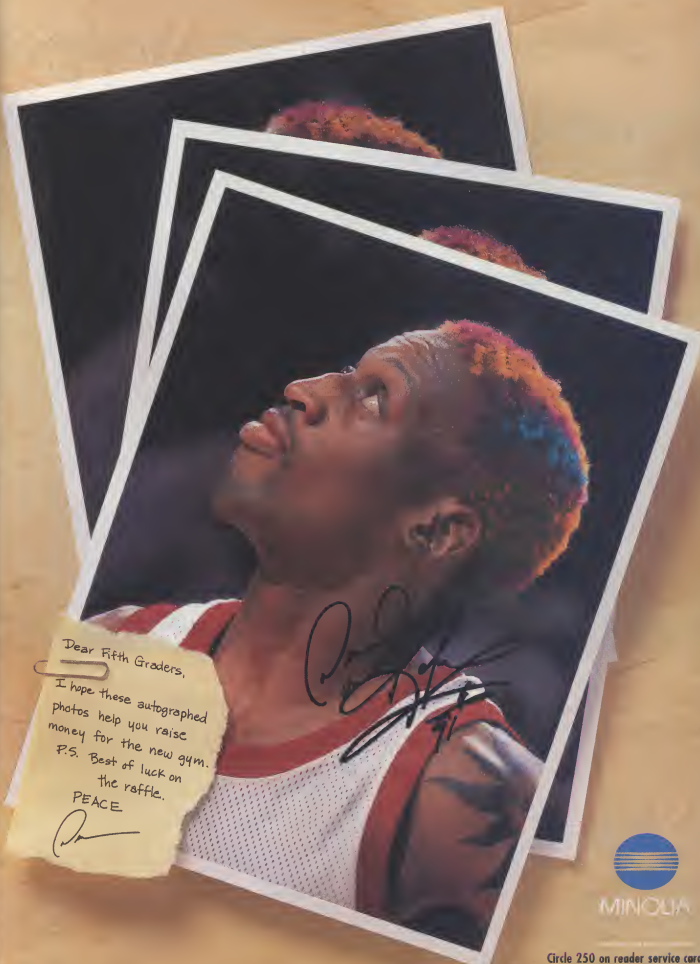
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COLOR PAGEWORKS



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PEACE



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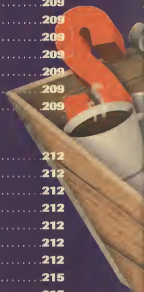
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Browsers

Bohemian Net Get good looks and peace of mind with this secure BBS's fully customizable graphical interface.

HotJava Start with a secure, platform-independent base for your Java apps.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.01 The latest version includes ActiveMovie and HTML layout control; and supports frames, animated GIFs, JavaScript, and VBScript.

NCSA Mosaic 3.0 The original Web browser now lets you surf with a multiple-pane, customizable view.

Netscape Navigator 3.0 The current standard for this popular, full-featured browser includes HTML-editing.

Netscape Navigator 4.0 Netscape's newest version is now part of the Communicator Internet suite.

Opera Browse without a mouse, thanks to Opera's keyboard-activated interface.

Surf Touch Why point and click when you can just touch the screen to tell your browser where to go?

Tango A world-class browser that displays Web pages authored in more than 90 languages.

WebSurfer A cross-platform browser that includes plug-in support and offline viewing.

Browser Plug-ins

Crescendo Plug-in Listen to sound files as you browse; and see if music can tame the savage Web.

CyberSpell No more embarrassing e-mail typos with this Navigator plug-in.

Director 6.0 Plug-in Lights, camera, action! This 32-bit plug-in plays back Macromedia Director files.

Enliven Viewer Watch feature-length interactive movies with this plug-in for ActiveX or Navigator.

FutureSplash Player View streaming vector-based graphics and animations using your Web browser.

mBed Plug-in An essential Navigator plug-in that lets you view mBedlets (interactive interfaces) in Web pages.

NetRadio Tune in to Internet radio.

Neuron for Netscape All you need to run Asymetrix ToolBook apps via the Net or any TCP/IP network.

PointPlus Play back Microsoft PowerPoint presentations on the Web.

QuickTime Plug-in Turns your PC into a movie theater.

RealAudio Hear audio files on the Web with the classic sound plug-in.

Sizzler for Netscape Nope, not a steakhouse, but a plug-in that lets you create and display animation and sounds.

V00 Live Player Watch real-time audio and video files over the Net.

Communication Tools

Comic Chat Choose an animated character and type a message to your chat group—the text appears as a bubble above the head of your character.

CU-See-Me Save that travel budget by videoconferencing over the Internet with this premier application.

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mIRC 32-bit Simplifies and speeds an Internet Relay Chat (IRC) session. Great for both new and experienced users.

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News Gathering

BackWeb Delivers personalized news, entertainment, and software to your PC.

Downtime Get the latest information from your favorite sites.

Free Agent News Reader Keep up with your favorite news groups—offline.

Gravity Stay in touch with more than 15,000 newsgroups to choose from.

MSNBC News Alert Runs quietly in the background, then alerts you to the breaking stories that interest you.

NewsMonger Send it out to search Usenet, then wait for e-mail notification.

SmartNews Reader Get the score on Usenet articles with this handy rating app.

WinVN Newsreader Easily navigate between newsgroups and articles.

WorldFlash NewsTicker Get personalized stock quotes and news in a separate window while you surf the Web.

Offline Web Browsing

Folio Web Retriever Tell it what you want and it delivers.

Go-Get-It Fast and reliable program does keyword searches while you're offline and stores results for you to grab later.

Monitor Tells you when your favorite Web sites are down.

NavRoad A small, powerful offline browser that doesn't require Winsock DLL.

NearSite Grabs the Web pages you like so you can browse them at your leisure.

NetAttaché Put this data-filtering agent on your server so everyone can use it.

NetAttaché Light The slimmed-down version for your desktop.

SuperLister Keeps you up-to-date on FTP files on your favorite servers.

Miscellaneous Internet

CuteFTP All the benefits of FTP without the need for complicated protocol details.

fpArchie Includes a built-in FTP client to grab files as you locate them.

FTP Explorer You'll swear it's Windows Explorer, except it's an FTP client, too.

FTP Icon Connection Take a shortcut to your favorite FTP sites.

FTPMap 97 Drag and drop files to your FTP server.

Guliver's Guardian Everything you need for your Web travels: a browser, an e-mail client, and a newsreader.

NetLoad An Internet housekeeper! Uploads new and updated files, removes old ones, and rebuilds directories.

Best of the Net



BROWSER PLUG-INS

Live3D Enter a 3-D VRML world.

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OnLive Talker Forget text chat; now you can socialize on the Web with your own voice.

Visual IRC No more reading between the lines with IRC videoconferencing.

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ABC QuickSilver Use it with ABC Graphics Suite to create images.

AlphaConnect Pro Search for and snag intranet data and convert it to a format your desktop apps can read.

Copyright and Netiquette Primer Install this training resource on your intranet to keep employees up-to-date on copyright issues.

CyberSearch This speedy utility helps you locate files and information on your intranet, hard drive, or the Internet.

Emulive Pro Deliver images from your video-capture card right to your intranet.

FootPrints Manage user inquiries and maintain change requests and bug reports with this help-desk system.

IntraBuilder This visual JavaScript tool set lets you build and maintain dynamic, data-driven Web apps.

Intranet Database Assistant Publish database information to an intranet with ease. No scripting required!

IntraPower Suite Inject your intranet with Java power, courtesy of this collection of ready-to-use apps.

List2HTM Publish custom-designed company phone directories and other lists.

SurfinGate Fortify your intranet against the Java applet invasion with this corporate firewall.

ToolBelt Publisher for Win95 Tailor-make a Web site for your company's intranet with this powerful publisher.

TruagerLite Cut down on pointless waiting. Browse the Web offline from your intranet with this multipatform agent.

WebDesigner This graphical editor lets you design professional-looking intranet Web pages.

Java

Animix Create your own animated Java applets with this drawing tool.

AppletAuthor A robust Java applet-authoring utility that lets you work with images, text, audio, and animation.

Applet Widget Kit Build Java applets without writing a single line of code.

Avajava Integrates the components of Sun Microsystems' and Microsoft's software development kits (SDKs) in an easy-to-understand Windows interface.

Banner Show Control the rotation of your banner graphics with a JavaScript-based HTML file.

Bongo A visual interface-builder for Java.

CoolJavaBar A flexible toolbar construction kit that lets you add interactive navigation bars to Web pages.

ED for Windows Autocorrect feature lets you know instantly if there's a flaw in your Java or HTML 3.0 code.

JAST Set up Java applets with ease.

Java Developers Kit Play by the rules: Write applets that conform to the application program interface (API) for the Java programming language.

Java-Godfather Don't wade into Java/JavaBeans programming without this complete documentation.

Javelin Pro Java Java classes as active objects onscreen; move them by adding or renaming fields.

Powered Jato A Java tool set for building platform-independent business applications.

W3e Java Blade Whip up some lively applets with this tool, which includes Java Applet Compiler IDE.

Page Creation Tools

1-4 All HTML Editor Join the crowd and build Web pages with this handy editor.

AdSorb HTML Editor Get to work with this HTML editor that supports more than 60 coding tags.

Alchemy All the tools you need for plug-in development, site design, testing, and publishing on the Web.

AOLPress Browse and edit Web pages in the same window.

Arachnophilia HTML editor supports six browsers, plus a drag-and-drop option.

Backstage Internet Studio 2

Enterprise Edition A visual tool for building database-powered Web sites.

Claris Homepage A friendly page designer for basic needs.

CMed Toolbars for all HTML elements, plus support for Latin symbols.

CoffeeCup HTML Editor ++ Get more than 50 animated GIFs and 10 JavaScript code strings.

Cold Fusion Lets you liven things up with dynamic pages.

Enhanced HTML 97 A customizable HTML editor featuring multiple drop-down menus, stats, and anchors.

Equitrac's Professional Internet Client For tracking and managing Net usage.

FrameGang Takes the pain out of creating frame-enhanced Web pages.

Frame-It Generate frame-based Web pages by pointing and clicking.

Gypsy A speedy 32-bit editor made for more experienced Web-page designers.

Horizon Web Text Fast-loading text editor with a clean interface.

HotDog Professional 3 The perfect tool for building large Web sites.

HTML Builder True to its name.

HTMLed Yet another HTML editor to take for a test drive.

HTML Handler So easy to use, you'll

forget you're coding in HTML.

HTMLpad Pro This editor is flexible. Configure it to be a simple text editor or a serious HTML development tool.

JMK HTML Author A complete HTML editor with easy-to-use forms.

Mortar Hold your site together with this customizable editor.

Picasso Create HTML templates from scratch.

popSite Build a home page or an entire Web site with this plain-text-to-HTML tool.

Quantum Web Editor HTML made easy with shortcuts, toolbars, and pull-down menus. Supports ten external browsers.

Spider Edit Professional Wizards help you create personal and corporate Web pages and guest books.

SpiderPad Create a Web page quickly with this visual table, form, frame, and style editor.

WebEtch Edit at the HTML tag level to maintain control over your pages.

Web Media Publisher Create multifile search and replace functions, user-defined buttons, and support for Java applets and Shockwave.

WebTamer This handy suite includes speed browsing, scheduled downloading, offline reading, and more.

Web Weaver Easy-does-it frames, forms, and tables.

Best of the Net



JAVA

Liquid Motion Pro A drag-and-drop authoring tool for Java. You never knew programming could be this easy.

PAGE CREATION TOOLS

HomeSite A fast and flexible HTML editor that includes color coding, multiple undos, an image thumbnail viewer, and a Microsoft Internet Explorer-style directory.

NetObjects Fusion Design a Web site that looks like (you paid) a million bucks. Automate site-building functions and get professional-quality design with this powerhouse.

SERVER TOOLS

Castanet Tuner What you need to be on the receiving end of Castanet Transmitter updates for keeping software and content current.

WEB GRAPHIC TOOLS

PhotoImpact GIF Animator It's as easy as drag and drop with this 32-bit GIF-animation composition tool.



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Server Tools

ADNET Serve more ads to better serve your advertisers. Load a new advertisement at timed intervals, not just at every visit.

CamShot WebCam HTTP Server Mount your own Web cam! You know you want to.

Castanet Transmitter Try out this high-end tool for keeping your software and content up-to-date.

DNS Workshop Fast and efficient conversion between IP addresses and Internet host names.

Hit List Enterprise Web-site analysis for high-traffic sites. Includes 20 ready-to-run reports.

Hit List Pro How did they get to your site? Find the answer with these 17 reports.

Hit List Standard Edition If you don't want as much information, get what you need from these 11 reports.

HTMLEx Top off your pages with counters and greeting messages.

NetIntellect Generate straightforward site reports that show statistical, geographic, and marketing trends.

Personal Web Server Designed for easy installation and management.

ServerTrak Keep tabs on your server with this continuous monitoring application.

Spaghetti Proxy and Gateway Server Get the Internet delivered to your LAN via TCP/IP using a single connection.

The Ultimate Guestbook Track who's visiting you in cyberspace.

WebDisk A personal server for your computer, let others log into your system via the Web.

WebTrak Site-analysis reports you can view with your Web browser.

WebTrends Analyze your server's logs—or log files created by any Web server.

WinDownload Maximize bandwidth on any size pipe.

VRML

Cosmo Player Jump into 3-D Web pages with this browser—the first to support VRML 2.0 with sensors, scripts, and sound.

DoomToVRML2 Convert the polygon and texture information in a Doom level into a VRML 2.0 world file.

GLView VRML browser with a 3-D file viewer that lets you dynamically rotate three-dimensional objects.

Hyperwire Sneak Peek 2 Quickly create Java-based titles for your pages.

Liquid Reality Design VRML 2.0 solutions with this development platform.

Passport A Netscape Navigator plug-in that turns VRML worlds and ordinary Web sites into online communities by adding chat and interaction.

Pioneer A VRML browser and 3-D modeler in one.

SitePad You're free to create VRML worlds using syntax coloring and custom JavaScript and VBScript tools.

V-Realm Builder A replacement for longhand VRML coding. One of the few applications that can actually read and write VRML.

VRML ActiveX Control Is it real or is it ActiveX? Navigate VRML worlds with this control.

WorldView This VRML browser lets you do 3-D in real-time.

Web Graphic Tools

Animagic GIF Animator Shrink your GIF files by as much as 60 percent.

Gif.gif.gif Add GIF animations to your Web site.

Microsoft Image Composer Get professional-looking results without a hefty investment. Includes more than 500 tools and effects.

NetSketch Professional-level drawing tools built especially for the Web.

Pegasus Photoshop Plugin Create smaller, better-quality JPEG images.

Miscellaneous Web Publishing

Color Concealer There's no excuse for a dull gray background. Design color schemes and gradients for Web pages.

The Gate Keeper A snippet of JavaScript code that restricts access to Web pages without CGI scripting.

HTML Validator Validate your HTML documents without logging onto the Web.

Linkbot Even the most masterful Webmasters need help organizing, viewing, and maintaining their Web sites.

Magic Buttons *Abracadabra!* Add buttons to your Web pages using simple JavaScript commands.

Message Warehouse Get valuable feedback by adding this BBS to your site.

The Paparazzi Don't leave anything to

chance. Submit your site to the top search engines, directories, and catalogs.

Script Debugger Browse, edit, and debug your HTML pages using Microsoft Internet Explorer.

SR-HTML32 A search-and-replace application for speedy file processing.

Xpire Plus Avoid dead Web page syndrome. Search through directories (subdirectories, too) to replace outdated material.

Applications

Accounting

Account Pro Let the paper ledgers gather dust; this program is all you need to keep accurate accounts.

First Office Small Business Accounting Get a handle on your cash flow with this easy report generator.

Junior Invoice Manager Find out who owes you money with this application.

Rate Calculator Time is money. Put an end to client-billing guesswork.

Time & Profit Entrust your billing chores to this shareware bookkeeper.

Business

1st Alert Check before you let them charge. You'll know whether their credit card will allow the sale.

askSam Resume Tracker Fill the job quickly. Search your personal résumé bank.

Proficient 2.0 Sharp, simple business-management software. Looks like a PIM but acts like a project manager.

PropMan Let this electronic landlord keep track of rental properties and tenant-payment history.

Communication

Airsource Pro You don't need a pager to retrieve your messages; use your computer instead.

CallAudit Who's calling? You'll know with this Caller ID monitor.

Kurzweil VoicePad Give your fingers a rest as your PC takes over the typing.

Phonadex 95 Let your PC do the dialing.

Phone Book for Windows 4.5 The ultimate address book: dials the phone and prints envelopes.

TapITNA Telephony Location Selector Never think about area codes again!

Information Managers

2Do Personal Task Manager The ultimate to-do list.

Above and Beyond It juggles your tasks and appointments so you're free to work.

Act 3.0 for Windows 95/NT Share contacts or other vital stats over a LAN or the Internet.

Chronlist Simplify your life and sync schedules the smart way.

The Journal Tell it like it is with this electronic confidante.

My Personal Diary for Windows 95 Tidy little PIM maintains a journal, address book, and other personal information.

Now Up-to-Date Make sure everyone's in the loop with this workshop scheduler.

Password Tracker Never forget a password again. Store them in the Windows 95 Taskbar tray.

Personal Pager Go ahead, leave a voicemail message—even if you're sending e-mail.

ToDo No-frills to-do list lets you categorize, prioritize, and then delete tasks once you've completed them.



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THE DELL POWEREDGE 2100 HAS JUST WON SMALL BUSINESS SERVER OF THE YEAR.

(YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE SWIMSUIT COMPETITION.)



Network Magazine's
Small Business Server of 1997.

All kidding aside, if you own a small business, the Dell PowerEdge 2100 really is a beautiful server. Just look at what *Network Magazine* had to say about it. "The Dell PowerEdge 2100 is designed specifically for small business environments and offers outstanding functionality, performance and customer support at the right price." Need more? The editors also went on to report that its advanced features like a 200MHz Pentium® Pro Processor, ultra-wide hard drives and a PCI Ultra/Wide SCSI-3 Controller will, in their words, "add

DELL® POWEREDGE® 2100 SERVER 200MHz PENTIUM® PRO PROCESSOR

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- Integrated PCI Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Controller
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- MS® Windows NT® Server 4.0
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- 8X SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- Intel EtherExpress Pro/100 Ethernet Adapter
- 3Com OfficeConnect Hub 8/TPC
- Intel LANDesk Server Manager v2.5x
- NEW Dell Server Assistant CD-ROM
- 6 Expansion Slots: 3 PCI, 3 EISA
- 6 Drive Bays: 3 External 5.25"/3 Internal 3.5"
- 3 Year Limited Warranty
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at least a couple of years to the server's active lifecycle." And the fact that integrated server management and Intel's LANDesk® Manager software both come standard to give you an easy interface to the server's hardware monitoring functions. And now the PowerEdge 2100 is available with an expandable RAID controller, offering your business redundant data security. Plus there's next-business-day on-site service and a 24 x 7 toll-free support line with new "getting started" support. Speaking of getting started, shouldn't you?



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ALR IntraManager Server
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16-KB L1 Cache
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dedication to flexibility and reliability that have made our high-end Revolution servers international award-winners. We've loaded these systems



with features like dual processing support, extensive ECC memory support, excellent expansion, and ALR IntraManager™ integrated server management. Pentium Pro chip-based full-size servers even include ALR ActiveCPR™, our own advanced processor protection and auto-recovery system. Last but not least, we back them with our industry-leading 5 year/36 month warranty.

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Inventory

Atrix Stay on top of supply and demand with this inventory tracker.

Keys Get a lock on who has which keys to the office.

PrimaSoft Inventory Organizer Better not risk it. Catalog all your equipment. Store digitized photos, too.

Small Business Inventory Always be well stocked, thanks to this inventory and vendor monitor.

Software Inventory for Windows Don't get caught on a tech-support line without your registration number. Keep track of them all with this cataloger.

Legal

Contract Maker A collection of fill-in-the-blanks legal documents.

Legal Eagle Avoid the legal fees; draw up your own papers with more than 200 forms.

ReSearch Make legal research more manageable with this organized assistant.

Small Business Advisor Your very own tax and legal consultant.

Loan/Lease

BizWiz 4.0 You'll swear you're using a Hewlett-Packard HP-12C financial calculator.

EZ Loan Manager 97 for Windows 95 If only paying off loans were as painless.

Lease Consultant Is it smarter to buy the car? Get the straight answer.

Loan+Calculator Plus for Windows Run the numbers here before you leap.

Mortgage Designer Outline a mortgage you can live with, courtesy of this program.

Universal Mortgage Figure the best deal before you take out a second mortgage.

Math

DataFit You don't have to be an Einstein to plot data, generate curves, and manipulate mathematical information.

Graphmatica for Windows Turns out you really didn't need to pay attention in algebra class after all.

Qnet for Windows Why strain your brain solving tough math problems when this neural modeling tool does it for you?

Office Utilities

Avery Label Pro Big or small, every business needs an easy way to format and print labels.

Conversion Buddy Easier to use than those complicated conversion charts. Quicker, too.

EZ-Forms XL Do-it-yourself office forms.

FedEx Document Prep Software Wish your packages a bon voyage with this document-shipping system.

FedEx Ship for Windows Automate shipping with software from the leader in overnight delivery.

Issue Manager Make short work of meeting notes. Prioritize topics and print out a status report.

Postage Saver Save money by sending mail in bulk. Sorts your mail according to postal service standards.

SuperMail Managing mailing lists just got easier. Even prints labels, form letters, and bar codes.

UPS OnLine Tracking Software Find out if your packages made it without having to call UPS.

Personal Finance

Debt Analyzer 97 Take control of your finances.

Microsoft Money Try out this excellent electronic checkbook program.

Personal Asset Tracker Don't trust your memory. Record the serial numbers and warranties of your possessions.

Quicken 97 Trial Edition See what you've been missing with this free demo of the premier personal-finance application.

Retirement Planner Prepare for your golden years with this analyzer.

Project Management

Activity Log Multitasking made easy: While you work, run it in the background to create time reports for multiple projects.

Chores A clock watcher that generates invoices too.

Delegator Break down tasks and review employee status with this project manager.

Ecco Pro Try out this flexible information manager—especially if you use a U.S. Robotics Pilot or Timex Data Link watch.

Power Planner Where to turn for the really big projects.

Project Scheduler 7 Your projects will always be on time with this scheduling program. Publish Web pages, too!

ResSched Take control and keep tabs of your company resources, including conference rooms.

SmartDraw You don't need a big graphics package to crank out flowcharts and diagrams.

SureTrak Compare your active projects with your original plans.

Who's Who Book The perfect office address book.

Reference

101 Computer-Related Businesses Get ideas for your own PC-related business.

Franchising Fundamentals Is there a pizza parlor or dry cleaner in your future? Answers all your franchising questions.

Mostly Business Download this program for a daily work-related joke.

WinBiz: Book of Business Opportunities For the entrepreneur in you.

Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds

Graph It Seeing is believing. Now you'll know when to buy or sell.

Investor Insight Up-to-date, in-depth investment data that works with Quicken.

Investor's Toolbox 95 Protect your money—and use it to make more—with this investment and retirement planner.

MetaStock for Windows Follow the market with data from one of 40 investment services.

MFTC32: Mutual Fund Tax Calculator How big a bite will the IRS take from your mutual-fund earnings? Use this application to find out.

Mutual Fundamentals for Windows Consult this primer program before you invest in mutual funds.

NetProphet Tap into the power of neural technology in this investment-prediction application.

Personal Stock Monitor 2.0 Manage multiple portfolios with ease; dial up one of nine online services that work with Stock Monitor.

Portfolio Pages32 Slice your portfolio by its various holdings.

StockTick Connect to your favorite quote server and watch your fortune change—every 15 minutes.

Winstock Keep an eye on this stock ticker, then export the results to Quicken.

Best of the Net



BUSINESS

Big Business One program handles all your business needs: accounting, contact management, inventory, marketing, and sales.

Integra Office NT More than a money-minder, this NT powerhouse is a personal information manager, too.

COMMUNICATION

United Connection Hunt for travel bargains—both airfare and car rental—with this slick program from United Airlines. Searches 500-plus airlines.

INFORMATION MANAGERS

Time & Chaos32 Simply the best shareware PIM around.

OFFICE UTILITIES

FedEx Tracking Software If you use FedEx, get this utility to keep tabs on package delivery.



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Word Processing

Accent You don't have to leave out the unlaurel or the tide with this multilingual word processor.

NotePad+ Notepad with muscle. Open

bigger files and more files at a time.

Page After Page If Word, WordPerfect, or WordPro is too much for you, check out this streamlined alternative.

Super WinBook 97 Pull it all together

with an electronic book that combines text and graphics.

WordExpress for Windows 95 Word processing made simple.

WordWeb Look it up electronically.

EE Bond Value Estimator Track savings bonds from within Quicken.

MYMD2QIF Convert data from Managing Your Money (DOS) to Quicken Interchange Format (QIF).

QIFix A quick fix for two importing problems in Quicken 4.0.

Quicken Register Entry Assistant Add split-transaction capability to Quicken.

ToQuicken for Windows Convert downloaded files into a format Quicken recognizes.

Lotus 1-2-3

123Power A bookful of Lotus 1-2-3 macro help at your disposal.

Lotus 1-2-3 Converter for Microsoft Word Turn your Lotus 1-2-3 documents into Microsoft Word 6.0 tables.

Personal Info Manager Put your life in order with this 1-2-3-compatible PIM.

SmartIcons Lotus Forgot The name says it all! Plus, get varied borders and backgrounds.

Total Investor for Lotus 1-2-3 Stay on top of that growing portfolio.

WiseGuides Still using Lotus 1-2-3 for DOS but can't find your manual? Never fear, here's an electronic replacement.

Lotus Notes

Act for Lotus Notes Teamwork means sharing. Now everyone in your workgroup can access the same customer information.

GroupShield for Lotus Notes Say goodbye to Lotus Notes viruses.

InterNotes News SDK Tap into Usenet newsgroups right from Notes.

Lotus Notes Asset Manager The easy way to manage your single- and multiuser Notes licenses.

Lotus Notes Internet Cookbook for Notes Release 3 Get cooking (on the Net, that is) without leaving Lotus Notes.

Lotus Notes Internet Cookbook for Notes Release 4 Get the same Internet capabilities for Notes Release 4 users with this program.

Notes Jargon File Master technospeak with this compilation of hacker lingo.

Desktop Application Add-ins

Adobe PageMaker

Additions Palette Add this floating palette to your pasteboard for instant access to your PageMaker Additions.

Fraemz Proportional Borders Library 1 Spice up your layouts with fancy borders.

Fraemz Proportional Borders Library 2 More borders to keep things interesting.

Fraemz Proportional Borders Library 3 But wait, there's more—a third set of PageMaker borders.

Style Groups Who needs templates? Import and export PageMaker styles in group sans templates.

Style Report Know it all, with this detailed report of all your style attributes.

TabIt Take control of your tabs before they take control of you.

Type Styles Group styles and voila: no more messy individual text attributes.

Adobe Photoshop

Andromeda Software Series 1 Photography Filters Demo Create groovy kaleidoscopic effects with this filter demo.

Andromeda Software Series 2 Three-D Filter Demo Here are filters for true 3-D surface wrapping, viewpoint control, and shading.

Andromeda Software Series 3 Screens Filter Demo Convert boring ol' grayscale into line art, mezzoblends, and other neat screens.

Art-Scan Professional Demo Quick-and-easy, high-quality, multiple-image scans.

Eye Candy Demo One of the all-time best collections of Photoshop filters for dazzling effects. (Formerly called The Black Box.)

Photoshop Plugin Manager Tame the plug-in beast with this totally free, totally handy filter manager.

Corel Office Professional

CleanReg Remove those excess Corel entries from the Windows 95 Registry.

Corel Internet Extension Package Browse the Net in a Corel Office app.

Starfish Internet Utilities 97 Manage your online activities right from Office Professional.

Starfish Sidekick 97 The simplest way to track your appointments and meetings.

Corel WordPerfect

Citer This legal eagle's best friend produces citation formats in a snap.

File Doctor for WordPerfect 6.x Just what you need to repair corrupted files.

FontKat Choosing the best font is a breeze with this typeface cataloger.

Grammar Slammer for WordPerfect A grammar checker that provides real answers, not more questions.

Graphicat Clip Art Cataloger Automatically catalog your graphics with this set of macros.

InfoCentral 7 Tame your databases from within Corel WordPerfect 7.

Letterhead Kit-32 for Corel WordPerfect Suite 7 Customizable business templates for the smoothest correspondence.

MRG2AD.EXE Move up and don't miss a beat by merging your WordPerfect 6.1 address info into WordPerfect 7 Suite's Address Book.

PowerSearch for WordPerfect Create sophisticated search strings—including styles and fonts!—in WordPerfect.

QwikMacro Put your favorite WordPerfect tools at your fingertips.

SplitVu View and edit adjoining and multiple pages at one time.

UPDATE.EXE Get with the program and update Novell's WordPerfect 6.1 to Corel's version and fix some Windows 95 bugs.

WideOpen for WordPerfect Eight characters simply aren't enough. Create longer filenames thanks to this add-in.

Wood Clip Sampler Like woodcuts? Use WordPerfect? Grab this WPG image sampler of ten 19th-century engravings.

WordPerfect 6.1 Internet Publisher Get your WordPerfect documents on the Web—fast!

Miscellaneous Corel Add-ins

Corel CMX Viewer No more JPEG or GIF conversion! View CorelDraw CMX files with Netscape Navigator 2.0 and higher.

CorelWeb.Data Publish all your databases directly to the Web.

CorelWeb.Designer Go from zero to Internet in no time with this Web page creation package.

QPWAT Don't miss out on 30 new mathematical add-in @functions for Corel Quattro Pro.

Treats for Corel Print House Get inspired with these special-occasion sample files for Corel Print House.

Intuit Quicken

CheckPrint Design, format, and print your own checks and drafts from Intuit's Quicken—now if only you could print your own money.





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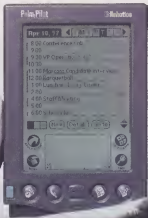
As you can see, the more things change, the more they stay the same.



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Orphan Manager Help your orphaned Notes documents find a home.

Miscellaneous Lotus Add-ins

Freelance Mobile Screen Show Player The worry-free way to take your show on the road.

Grammar Slammer for Word Pro Say it the right way. This utility sniffs out grammar errors.

Lotus ScreenCam Why just tell when you can show a compelling movie instead?

Lotus ScreenCam Player 97 Learn by example with this screen-show player.

Organizer 97 Web Calendar Get to your schedule right from the Web.

WideOpen for Ami Pro 3 Go ahead and wax eloquent with your filenames—no more eight-character limits.

WordPerfect to Lotus Word Pro Switchkit Help for making the big move.

Microsoft Access

ABarCode Go bar-code crazy in your Access reports.

Access ELF Translate natural-language queries into Structured Query Language (SQL) in seconds flat.

Access for Windows 95 Sample Forms Database Save yourself a lot of work with these complete form samples.

DareBase Easily transform query tables into Access database files in no time at all.

DB Lock No surprises. Instantly know which member of your workgroup is using an Access database.

DbmainMS An indispensable collection of tools for managing your Access 95 databases.

EF Pro-References Keep track of the defining moments of your life with this biographical info tracker.

Expense Tracking System Worried about going over budget? This program helps you keep running totals of various expenses.

FMS PowerPack for Access 7.0 Heavy-duty help with managing your Access databases.

FMS Text FX Goodbye, boring reports—see 'em in 3-D!

Fringe Sure, your employees say they're invaluable. See for yourself by calculating exactly how much each of your employees costs, including perks and paid leave.

Internet Assistant for Access 95 Use this app to create your very own Internet catalog.

Menu Builder Wizard Why settle for Microsoft's menus? Design your own.

Microsoft dbWeb Yes, you can! Publish data from an ODBC data source on the Web or an intranet.

NameBase for Windows Everything right at your fingertips—from your client's car-phone number to his or her favorite wine.

PM Advisor Become a master of your office equipment instead of a slave by

tracking inventory and maintenance.

Total Access Components Enhance the look and feel of forms and reports, and simplify programming. What more could you ask for?

Microsoft Excel

Baarns Excel Patch Checker Consider this your personal bounty hunter and repairman for three known bugs.

BusinessQuery An easy way to access databases and load the information into Excel spreadsheets for charting and analysis.

Convert It for Excel 5.x If you can't get a handle on the metric system, let this handy application convert standard units of measurement to metric and vice versa.

Edwin's Power Tools Jazz up your spreadsheets with 3-D formatting, a navigator, and several filters.

EPT Zoom Control 1.0 Take a closer look at your number-laden spreadsheets.

Excel to Web Table Converter Turn selected worksheet cells into an HTML table in a flash.

I'm No Accountant This single-entry workbook tracks your accounts—and provides help in a pinch.

Internet Assistant for Microsoft Excel Helps you get your Excel 6.0 spreadsheets on the Web fast.

Objectives Manager Workbook A to-do list that helps you do more.

Perpetual Calendar Add-in for Excel 5 A pop-up calendar that's always at hand.

Power Utility Pak 97 A set of power tools for the newest version of Excel.

Prime 95 for Excel 7.0 Customize your Excel workspace.

Print Selection Add-in Save trees by printing various cell ranges on one page.

ReportRunner Churn out multiple reports and graphs on the fly.

TalkBack for Excel 5 Why read through all those numbers when you can hear your spreadsheet read back to you?

Trade Sizer Take some of the guesswork out of selecting a stock-trading system.

WideOpen for Excel 5.0 Break the eight-character barrier for Excel filenames.

Microsoft Word

3.5" Disk Label Creator Floppy-disk labels with flair.

Act Tools '97 Tap into your Act contacts directly from Word 7.0.

Address Book for Winword You won't run out of room in this address book; it holds up to 8,000 formatted entries.

Address Fixer No more returned mail, thanks to this address checker.

Ami Pro 3.0 Converter for Word 6.0 Make it easy for Ami Pro and Word 6.0 users to get along.

Avery Wizard Labels for everything imaginable.

Business Card Creator for Word Why hire a designer when you can crank out your own business cards?

CD Player Add some background music as you work in Word with this handy tool.

File Manager Jr. 95 Whip your Word files and folders into neat, organized groups.

Grammar Slammer for Word A grammarian for your computer.

Helip Get instant Windows Help files courtesy of this Word document converter.

Internet Assistant for Microsoft Word Turn your Word 6.0 documents into HTML files.

JumpTo Macro Suite Stop scrolling with this hyperlink helper.

KeysPlease Type fanatics will like these keyboard-key fonts and symbol fonts.

Mail-To Formatter Convert that gobbledygook generated by Internet mail-to forms into tidy Word documents.

MegaWord 95 Customize Word 95 to the max without sacrificing any original functions.

Microsoft Word 97 Converter Share Word 97 documents with coworkers still clinging to those old versions.

Office Navigator for Winword 7.0 Manage Word files like never before: Zip documents, schedule automatic backups, create quick shortcuts, and more.

Best of the Net



ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

Filter Factory Gallery and Andrew's Filters Create mind-blowing visual effects with 250-plus Photoshop filters.

MICROSOFT ACCESS

Easy Accounts Finally! Accounting for any size business.

MICROSOFT EXCEL

Spreadsheet Assistant Two little toolbars give you more than 150 automated commands.

MICROSOFT WORD

WOPR 95 Turbocharge Word for Windows with this practical suite of essential utilities.

MISCELLANEOUS MICROSOFT ADD-INS

ActiveOffice for Office 95 & 97 Magically transform text and numbers in Office documents into full-color graphs, charts, and other visual aids.



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Office Toys for Word 97 Mold Word to your every whim with this bundle of tools.

PowerSearch for Microsoft Word Go Boolean in Word with this muscular add-in that also does font and style searches.

QuickFooter Call in the specialist: fast content footers and headers.

SCRNPRD.DOT The perfect template for aspiring playwrights.

Technical Dictionary Better than Word's built-in dictionary for the tech-obsessed.

Toolbar Doubler Increase the elbow room in your Word 6.0 window by squishing two toolbars into the space of one.

TSS WordContact Turn Word into a contact manager.

WideOpen for Word 6.0 Don't let eight-character filenames cut your creativity short.

WinFax Pro Macro for Word 7.0 Your own personal fax machine, right on the Word toolbar.

WDRP 95 Plus Pack An add-in to an add-in, which beefs up the already-powerful WDRP 95.

Word PhoneBook Insert addresses and phone numbers into Word documents with a single mouse click.

WordPerfect Fonts and Templates for Word Ease the transition to Word.

WordPower Do more with Word, courtesy of this macro collection. Contains more than 50 macros.

WordToys More goodies to add to Word: 70-plus macros, 40 tools, and 8 toolbars.

Wordware '96 Why download a gazillion add-ins separately when you can round 'em up in one shot?

Wordware Personal Information Manager '95 Looks and works like a genuine Rolodex.

Miscellaneous Microsoft Add-ins

FOXSQZ Put the squeeze on your Microsoft FoxPro documents with this compression and archiving utility.

Microsoft Clip Gallery Live Extend Publisher's clip-art gallery with this

constantly refreshed collection of free images.

Microsoft Publisher 97 One of the easiest ways to create fliers, brochures, cards, and more. Try it for a few months and decide for yourself.

Microsoft Web Publishing Wizard Step-by-step help for posting your PowerPoint creations to the Web.

OfficeLock Keep all your Office documents safe from prying eyes.

PowerPoint Animation Player and Publisher Breathe some life into your Web pages with this crackerjack animation player.

PowerPoint Internet Assistant Now your presentations can reach a bigger audience: the World Wide Web.

Zephyr Run reports, generate labels, or crank out form letters with this FoxPro app.

Miscellaneous Add-ins

Business Plan Master Make your dream a reality with this stellar set of business-plan templates for Microsoft Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, Microsoft Word, and Corel WordPerfect.

Database Browser Plus Talk about versatile! No matter what application you're currently using, you can search database files with this utility.

DataImport Translate text-based data from almost any source into nearly 40 database formats.

Drag and View Gold Don't worry if you don't have the program a file was created with. This add-in does the trick.

dtSearch for Windows 95 A slew of search protocols help you quickly track down documents.

Harvard Spotlight Demo A quick and dirty way to add panache to your presentations.

Library Database 1 Bookworms can catalog their libraries with this Borland Paradox for Windows 5.0 add-in.

Word Viewer Just because you're not using Word doesn't mean you can't view Word documents.

Xchequer Make online banking even more convenient with this pull-down

menu to Microsoft Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, or Corel Quattro Pro.

Utilities

Accessories

AutoMate Professional Edition 3.5g Put your computer on autopilot and let it handle routine tasks.

ClipMate 4.2 A pumped-up version of the Windows clipboard for pasting multiple objects.

ClockMan95 Turn your favorite application tasks over to ClockMan; it'll run them for you automatically.

Convert It SE Forget the guesswork. Go with a foolproof way to convert all kinds of measurements.

DiskDupe 5.0 If you still do DOS, use this app for quickly copying floppies.

EasyIcons 95 All-in-one icon shop: Open, save, and edit icons in multiple formats.

Forgot It Sticky notes for your computer.

The Joystick Control Center Don't let a two-button joystick stop you from playing Flight Simulator. Add this virtual joystick with up to ten command buttons.

LogoChanger 95 Fight boredom—randomly change your Windows Startup screen.

Toolbar 2000 Get to more apps faster with this Start Menu replacement.

TrayText 6.Dc Hold that thought—literally—on your toolbar. Great for quick pasting into e-mail messages and other documents.

Visual Merge One of these documents is not like the other. See how by viewing them side by side with the differences highlighted.

WinShade 2.0 Clear away desktop clutter by rolling up programs into their title bars.

Compression

Aeco Zip Explorer Pro 2.1 Do it the Windows way, by right-clicking to your file-management tasks.

PKZip for Windows You can't download files without a decompression utility. Why not go with the classic?

WinPack 32 Deluxe 1.3 There's more to the Net than Zip files. You need this to handle all the different formats.

WinZip 6.2 Don't download a thing from PC Computing's Web site until you get this file.

WinZip Self-Extractor Presto! Turn a Zip file into an EXE file.

ZipFolders 2.01 You've never seen Zip files that act like folders. Work with files while they're still in the Zip format.

Desktop Utilities

Bali Tools Everything you need in one place: system restart, calculator, phone numbers, to-do list, and e-mail access.

Dashboard 95 Get to all your apps from a single control panel and tackle all your Windows 95 chores.

Desktop Informant Sweat the details with this file helper. Just pass the cursor over a filename for the complete rundown.

EzDesk Set your desktop in stone with this handy utility. Your icons won't move no matter what changes you make.

Imp's Desk List Click-and-go: Launch all your applications right from the Windows Taskbar.

PerfectScreens If you can't afford a bigger monitor, gain more desktop real estate with this virtual desktop creator.

Power Toys Complete Set Improve on Windows 95 with this set of operating-system enhancements.

Stiletto Take your desktop to new heights by adding button bars, menus, tray icons, and hotkeys.

Diagnostics

Data Digger All is not lost! Salvage data from corrupted files.



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Help



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Whether you're looking for beginners' tips or expert advice on Office 97, Microsoft Press can help. *Microsoft Office 97 At a Glance* offers easy, visual information that quickly helps

you with a particular task. *Running Microsoft Office 97* answers all your questions and provides clear instructions for every Office application. Learn how to get your digital office up and running today with Microsoft Press.

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The other guy's so-called 16X CD Drive actually performs at 8/16X – reading 8X at the beginning of the disc and 16X only at the outside of the disc. For them to tell you otherwise is absolutely obscene. The critics at PC Magazine, Computer Shopper, NetGuide, PC Graphics & Video and PC World saw through it right away.

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ment to further enhance efficiency and reduce CPU utilization. Add improved performance when serving data, images or video over a network. Even pull CD-Audio off at high speed for faster multimedia creation.

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1,001 Best Downloads: Utilities

InfoSpy The cure for frozen screens. Plus, it monitors your system, manages files, and schedules application launches.

InWatch95 Keep tabs on your Windows Registry and INI files.

Kernel32 Update Track Windows memory problems with this handy utility.

MSPhone Directory Call Redmond. Here are all the tech-support numbers you need.

Start Clean 1.2 Get a fresh start and clear dead icons from your desktop and Start Menu.

Windows 95 Service Pack 1 Update You don't have to wait for the next big upgrade to improve Windows. Get these patches and enhancements now.

Wintune 97 Find out what's ailing your system—and fix it.

Encryption

Arcypt Be safe and speedy with this tool for encrypting multiple files at once.

Crypt-o-Text 32 Forget public and private keys. Encrypt your messa-ge so they can be opened only with a password.

Encrypt-It for Windows 95 Paranoid? Or is your stuff really sensitive? Get some good old-fashioned encryption.

File Finders

More Space 95 Take back your hard drive.

SafetyScan Did you mess anything up the last time you rebooted? Just to be safe, run this file checker.

Space Hound Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean you can ignore it. Clean out your cluttered subdirectories.

SWShell Power-search from anywhere on the desktop.

Zarchive 1.4 Who's minding your backup drive? Trust your Iomega Zip, Jaz, or other drive to this reliable archive utility.

File Managers

CleanSweep File fitness: Uninstall, archive, or move files to another drive safely.

DataPage Maker-DIR What a host!ist: the current contents of your hard drive.

Quickly transfer it to the Web or put it in a database instead.

Dir3D Who says file management isn't any fun? Fly around your hard disk or network drive with this cool 3-D replacement for Explorer.

Drag and File Gold It's a file manager. No, it's a compression utility. No, it's an app launcher. It's everything. Just get it.

FileSplit 1.1 The file's 2MB, the floppy's 1.44MB. Not a problem when you can split it in half and use two disks.

FileSync Take version control and automatically sync two folders so they're the most up-to-date. Great for laptop users.

PicaView 32.1.0 Peek inside your image files with this Explorer add-on.

QuickView Plus No matter what kind of file it is, you can see its contents. Supports more than 200 different file types.

SpyDir 2.0 Instantly see how much disk space you waste, then clean things up.

Turbo Browser for Windows 95 Keep the familiar Windows Explorer look, but get a whole lot more features, too.

Xchange for Windows 95/NT Make your PC read and write Macintosh-formatted disks.

Font Management

ABC 95 Better font management than the Windows 95 Control Panel.

Microsoft Windows 95 Font Smoother *Hamm*. Looks suspiciously like part of the Microsoft File Pack—only it's free.

Quick Font Sampler See it in black-and-white with a handy printout of your fonts.

TTFPlus Load 'em up. Get to all your fonts quickly.

Memory Management

Memory Analyst Seeing is believing, especially when it comes to managing Windows 95 and your system's memory.

MemPro 95 You can never have enough memory. Get more with this utility.

Resource Monitor Spot memory hogs with this visual memory display that works on the fly.

VRAMDIR Cache in and speed things up.

Print Utilities

Booklets You don't need a desktop publisher to print a simple booklet.

Drag and Drop Printing Windows 95 and Macintosh users aren't the only people who can use drag-and-drop printing. Get this if you run Windows 3.1.

FaxMail Save yourself a trip to the fax machine; send faxes from any Windows application.

Screen Print 32 Relive the DOS days and make that Print Screen button on your computer work again with Windows 95.

SmartDoc 95 Wish you had a manual? Print an entire Windows 95 help file, not just a single topic, all at once.

Wenvelope Post-office perfect: Print envelopes complete with graphics and bar codes.

Security

007 for Win32 Lock up your favorite apps.

Backup Registry Is your Windows Registry backed up? Just checking.

FearNot No way, in thanks to password protection and restricted rebooting.

LifeSaver Longing for a normal life after a messy install or two? It's easy to go back when you track your configuration changes with LifeSaver.

Magic Folders Don't let your boss get a peek at your updated resumé. Hide personal files and folders from wandering eyes.

Passwords Plus How secure can it be when you have to share passwords? Add discrete passwords for multiple users on a single system.

RedHand Who's been on my computer? Find out with this know-it-all utility.

Safety Net Pro 5.2 Play it safe and back up all your critical files.

WinU The Internet isn't the only thing you may want to keep your kids away from. Restrict access or limit playtime with WinU.

System Utilities

Barry Press Utilities Lots of little extras you soon won't be able to live without,

including a random multimedia file-player and a DLL investigator.

Kernel Toys Microsoft's giving it away: a collection of essential add-ons for Windows 95.

SciTech Display Doctor 5.3 A collection of graphics card goodies, including the Uniview driver.

VersList Match-make your DLLs with the right executables.

Win95 Startup Editor Get off to the right start with this configuration editor for the MS.DOS file.

Virus Protection

EMD Armor 95 Personal Firewall You, too, can have your very own firewall.

Integrity Master To serve and protect—and fix hardware and software damage to your system.

McAfee VirusScan Don't take anymore chances. Get the granddaddy of virus checkers.

Symantec AntiVirus Research Center Intelligent Updater Keep your virus

Best of the Net



ACCESSORIES

Microangelo 2.1 Liven up your desktop with this animated icon manager and editor.

COMPRESSION

WinZip 32-bit Install/Try/Uninstall Clear the clutter with this invaluable uninstaller add-in that cleans up after decompression.

DESKTOP UTILITIES

PowerDesk Utilities 2.0 A better way to manage, organize, and compress your files.

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Oil Change 1.2 Are your patches up-to-date? Oil Change lets you know.

VIROUS PROTECTION

ThunderByte Anti-Virus 95 Want another option? Try this top-notch virus detector.



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protection up-to-date. Otherwise what good is it?

ThunderByte Anti-Virus for MS Exchange Get this antivirus app especially for Exchange and stop those nasty e-mail viruses in their tracks.

Tutor.Com Knowledge is power. Protect yourself from viruses.

VirusSafe 95 Virus detection and eradication doesn't have to be a chore. Use this wizard to keep clean.

Image Robot Lightning-fast image conversion with batch processing of more than 30 formats.

Mr. Snappy Doing screen grabs? First grab this small, simple utility.

Multimedia Explorer Display, convert, and organize a wide variety of image, movie, and audio files.

Pixfolio 32 Organize your image collection with this viewer and cataloger.

Polyview Everything you need for image processing and conversion.

WinSIROS Create random-dot stereograms from color bitmaps, equations, or depth maps.

Graphics Editors

Bitmap Rotator This utility makes perfect tiled backgrounds possible.

The Graphics Factory Put algorithms to work to generate seamless landscapes, patterns, and textures.

GraphPro If it's speed you want, get this graphics image processor and converter.

HyperImage Batch process images and manipulate graphics in several file formats.

Lview Pro Versatile editor handles multiple file formats.

Maprix Generate fractal noise textures with this muscular tool.

Photoline Get it for the features, use it for the filters.

QuickSilver ReTouch Work with multiple files, morph images, and retouch photos.

Graphics Viewers

Chaos Stir things up with this basic Mandelbrot and Julia image generator.

Flashview You've got choices: Browse and display 23 image formats and 2 multimedia formats.

Image Commander Speedy graphics viewer supports more than 30 formats.

Mediavista Don't spend hours looking for image files. Get this image-management program for organizing, annotating, and printing.

PhotoBubble Viewer There's no angle you can't see with this 360-degree image viewer.

Present Create quick slide shows with this image viewer.

QuickTime VR Take a groovy 360-degree trip around one or more images.

Thumbs Plus An image viewer, finder, and organizer that supports a huge range of file types.

VuGrafix Image Viewer Size up your thumbnails with this nifty viewer.

Multimedia Display

Cryptapix Secure slide shows, thanks to built-in encryption.

Formula Graphics Multimedia System Total multimedia management: bitmaps, animations, sprites, video, sound, buttons, and graphs.

Multimedia Maker Simple slide-show and display utility for a variety of graphics and movie formats.

Multimedia Player Automatically play your sound and video files.

NeoBook Punch up your presentations with pictures, sound, video, special effects, and text.

Presentation King Drag and drop text, sound, bitmaps, and simple animations into your presentations.

Best of the Net



GRAPHICS CONVERTERS

GIF Construction Set
Everything you need to create GIF files.

GRAPHICS EDITORS

Paint Shop Pro Outstanding package offers more than 30 filters and effects, a format converter, a screen-capture utility, and an image browser.

PhotoRecall Easy image cataloging—visually.

MULTIMEDIA DISPLAY

Mediasauce Stimulate the senses with this player that supports WAV, MIDI, video, and audio files, plus a CD database.

SOUND

Gold Wave A digital sound editor that doesn't miss a beat.

Multimedia

3-D Graphics

3-D Fotocube Flying photo cubes! Works with BMP or JPEG files.

Fractal Landscape Generator You may not be Picasso, but with this tool you can turn your computer screen into a canvas for 3-D rotating landscapes.

Genesis Build your own 3-D graphics applications. Includes C++ libraries, DLLs, a 3-D editor, and documentation.

MicroLathe Get the 360-degree view of your 3-D creations as you build them.

RenderDotC Create mind-blowing photorealistic effects with this powerful, easy-to-use 3-D rendering engine.

RT Editor All the rays you can trace—free. Plus: texture mapping, stereogram, and VRML 1.0 output.

Snowflake Designer Let it snow: Create variable snowflakes and save them as DXF or RAW files.

Animation

3DEM Assemble fly-by animations from DEM elevation data files.

Animagic GIF Don't just sit there. Get animated with this utility for creating and optimizing GIF animations.

Animate Transform FIT, BMP, SPE, and TIF files to AVI format with this animation compiler.

Ani the Animator Create your own cel animations.

Cel Assembler Follow your work: Put together and view GIF animations frame by frame.

Fractrip Generate dazzling Mandelbrot images.

Hypercam Capture the action from your Windows 95 or NT screen and save it as an AVI file.

MainActor Don't animate without it: the ultimate animation-format conversion package.

Organic Art Create stunning, organic-looking computer-generated images.

QuickDraw Display images in the Metafile format.

Sprite Animator View and build sprite animations.

Zonerings Breathe life into your line graphics.

Business Graphics

Efofex Graph Pack financial presentations with more punch: Include Cartesian and polar graphs.

Graph Crazy You'll never go graphless again. Choose among 11 styles to bolster reports.

Mind Path Presentation FX Overlay impressive special effects on your presentations.

OsoSuite Graphics for any job: ad layout, business-card design, and label making.

Pie Slice Quit agonizing over complicated pie-chart generators. Grab this ultrasimple utility.

Quickgraf Create 3-D bubble, bar, and pie charts in no time flat.

Graphics Converters

Fractal Imager Load and save images via fractal compression.

Graphics Workshop Handles all your graphics chores; supports 36 graphics and movie formats.

Graph-X Viewer View, convert, and create image thumbnails.

Hypersnap Grab screen shots and save to a variety of formats, including progressive JPEG or transparent GIF.



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- Software for Mac or Windows

What the Experts Say:

PC World: MindSpring "works well and is easy to use" and "their support people were among the friendliest, most helpful we found."

CNET: MindSpring ranks among the top five national ISPs in a user satisfaction survey conducted by CNET.

PC Magazine: MindSpring's "strong software package and excellent customer service will be popular" and "the software suite includes some of the best Internet tools... the software is easy to set up and requires little configuration."

NelGuide: MindSpring wins 1997 People's Choice Award in the category of best Internet Service Provider.

U.S. Robotics: MindSpring now supports U.S. Robotics 56Kbps technology in select locations.



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SlideShow Pro Simple slide-show program combines BMP foregrounds, backgrounds, sound effects, and text.

Slim Show Add interactivity to your presentations, along with text, audio, and graphics.

VidFun Create superslick multimedia slide shows and screen savers. Does image processing, too.

Sound

Awave Audio and wavetable converter, editor, and player supports a huge array of file formats.

CD/Spectrum Pro An audio CD player and spectrum analyzer in one.

Digital Audio Filter Choose between general and cascade audio filters.

FX From Darth Vader to the Chipmunks, process all kinds of sounds and effects.

Graphic Level Meter Seek new sound heights: features oscilloscope, graphic level, folding, sting, and bar meters.

Hitline 95 A sophisticated CD player with an integrated database.

ICCD Enhance the performance of your PC's audio CD output. Also: screen tracking and QuickPlay.

MediPlay Play an entire directory of MIDI, RMI, WAV, and AVI files at once.

MIDI Pentagram Replace the Windows Media Player and build your own playlists.

Midnight Express Add software wavetable to your PC.

Multi Player Get big sound from this compact audio player.

QUACK Effects Studio Custom sound effects saved to WAV files.

SoundStudio LE Make beautiful music with this MIDI editor.

Synthmaster Be your own five-man band.

Wmp2Split Tweak MPEG-1 audio.

Video

AViva Replay it or play it backwards with this AVI player with loop and reverse play.

Enjoy A single player that supports a variety of video formats.

Ladybug 97 She won't fly away before she purrs your MPEG-1, AVI, and MOV files.

Morpher for Windows Transform static BMP files into animated AVI morphs.

Personal AVI Editor AVI single-track audio-video editing with wipes.

QuickTime 32 Do you need the latest version of Apple's video player?

Screen Test Check your monitor's video output with this linearity, gray, and color bar test.

Video Launch Pad Sit back and enjoy the show—program up to ten videos in a row with this app.

VideoPrompter Pretend you're a news anchor. Large, smooth-scrolling text for use with video teleprompting.

points—then generate reports with this slick utility.

Network Toolbox Wield this ten-pack of utilities to scan ports, ping, trace routes, and even sync your Windows 95 clock to the NIST atomic clock.

Nifty Network Thing Administering Netscape Navigator on your LAN? Use this tool to keep users' mail, news, and bookmarks in their net directory regardless of log-in location.

QuickLAN Administers and keeps track of your Windows LAN clients. Acts as a policy editor and activity monitor.

Remoter Remote Control Suite Run programs on remote machines using Windows 95 or NT 4.0.

SafeIt Keep track of multiple TCP/IP configurations on your LAN.

Satan Sniff out common network security problems with this diabolically named utility.

Smart Security Selectively restrict access to floppy, removable, and CD-ROM drives as well as serial and parallel ports.

TCP/IP Surveyor Trying to make sense of your TCP/IP network? Use this tool to map Internet protocol routes from routers to servers, and from clients to defined hosts.

Visual Net Supervisor Keep an eye on your network with this graphical utility. Notices you of problems by e-mail or pager.

WhatsUp Monitor comprehensive network problems and select from a customizable variety of alarms.

WinProxy Use this friendly utility to connect your LAN to the Internet using a proxy server, firewall, and mail server.

Mail

Argus Look no further for a Windows 95 FidoNet mailer.

GateKeeper Link your LAN to the Internet with this strapping utility that won't cost you a dime.

MailW@tch Track incoming mail in up to 50 POP3 mailboxes from your Windows 95 or NT 4.0 Taskbar.

Network E-Mail Not looking for lots of bells and whistles? Check out this

simple but complete e-mail system.

WinGate Pro Use this amazing application to connect your LAN to the Internet using a single modem.

WinProxy Link your entire network to the Net with one connection. Supports many protocols—including HTTP, FTP, SMTP, POP3, dial-up networking, and more.

NetWare

Neighborhood Watch This slick screen saver helps you keep watch over your network.

NetWare Client for Windows NT Running NT but want full Directory Services access? Turn here.

NetWare/IP Manage your network's Internet protocol addresses from a wide-area connection.

NWCOPY Use this utility to distribute applications and synchronize files on your network.

NWMenu Make Windows menus for your Novell network.

Best of the Net



LAN SOFTWARE

NetLab Looking for a do-it-all utility? This is it: DNS lookup, PC clock synchronization, quote of the day, and more.

MAIL

NewMail Use this tiny program to watch your POP3 mailboxes for incoming mail, then use your e-mail program to fetch it.

NETWORK

The Network File Manager Missing your FILER, SALVAGE, and VOLINFO DOS commands in Windows 95? Don't despair: They're all here.

WINDOWS NT ADD-INS

Server Management Tools Keep tabs on your NT server, users, and events from a Windows 95 desktop.

Network Software

LAN Software

Big Brother Watch for trouble on your Internet-protocol (IP) network.

Current IP? Get your current IP address and copy it to the Windows 95 clipboard with this snappy app.

DirectParallel Connection Monitor Get detailed parallel-port info and help with Windows 95 direct cable connections.

LANdesk Workgroup Manager Oversee multiple network operating systems with this workgroup tool.

LANtropolis Screen Saver Feel like a real neethad with this perennial favorite from Intel.

Net Documenter Paint an instant picture of your LAN/WAN layout.

Network LED Sick of looking at the back of the PC? Move your network card's LED status lights to the Windows 95 Taskbar.

Network Scanner Get specifics on every network card attached to your NetWare or Ethernet network.

Network Security Organizer Scan for trustee violations and infectable virus



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Pin-ups Easily oversee your network with this collection of DOS command-line utilities.

Replica Back up servers and volumes with this dependable app.

Saber LAN Workstation Manage your NetWare or Windows NT network with this comprehensive applications suite.

ServerStor LANs Back up your departmental servers with this reliable tool.

Snoop Get the lowdown from any and all workstations. Includes source code for the power administrator.

Stomper Modem sharing made easy for your network.

Watcher Detect a variety of LAN problems on your network with this powerful utility.

Windows 95 and NT

Distributed Access System Starter Kit Save time and avoid hassles by delegating administration authority across your Windows NT 3.51 or 4.0 network.

McAfee ViruScan for Windows NT Protect your server with the latest version of the popular, reliable virus detector from McAfee.

Reboot Got a Microsoft network (Windows 95 or NT)? Keep watch for user reboots or crashes with this utility.

ZipMapper Connect or disconnect clients from your Windows 95 or NT network resources with a few mouse clicks.

most of your Supra modem under Windows 95.

U.S. Robotics Courier V.Everything Driver Copy this file to your Windows\INF directory to redetect your modem and optimize performance.

U.S. Robotics Courier V.Everything Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K You don't need a new modem to get more speed.

U.S. Robotics Courier V.Everything PC Card Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Make your portable modem faster.

U.S. Robotics Sportster 1626 PC Card Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Yet another upgrade for a PC Card modem.

U.S. Robotics Sportster DSV2 Modem Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Talk or send data even faster now!

U.S. Robotics Sportster Winmodem Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Faster is better, especially when it comes to connecting to the Internet.

Unimodem V Try this generic modem driver that works with any modem.

Scanners

Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 4C Plug and Play Driver for Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 If you need to reinstall your

scanner, then get the most up-to-date driver.

Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 5p Software Bundle Everything you need to add pictures to documents and do OCR.

Visioneer PaperPort Viewer Your colleagues don't need a PaperPort scanner to share your files.

Sound Cards

Phone Blaster 28.8 Stay current and overcome the 4-second recording limitation if you're using Creative's SuperVoice 2.2B software.

Sound Blaster Windows 95 Full Duplex Driver Works with any flavor Sound Blaster.

Tape Backup Utilities

PTape Keep tabs on your parallel-port tape drive with this diagnostic utility.

Seagate Backup for Windows 95 ATAPI You're backed up, right? If not, get this program for your Seagate ATAPI/IDE drive.

Seagate Backup for Windows 95 SCSI Upgrade If you've got the SCSI model, get this Seagate program instead.

Patches and Drivers

CD-ROM Drives

Creative Labs CD-ROM Driver The generic driver to try when you can't find exactly the right one. Supports CD-ROM drives from eight manufacturers.

Sony CD-ROM drives ATAPI Driver Lost your driver disk? Get what you need here.

Sony's CDU-31A and CDU-33A Driver A single driver works with both drives.

Sony's CDU-53x and CDU-720x Driver Resolve CD-ROM problems.

Toshiba ATAPI Driver Use this driver with any Toshiba ATAPI drive.

Toshiba SCSI Driver Get this one if you have any Toshiba SCSI drive.

Hard Drives

Green Drive Your monitor isn't the only greedy part of your PC: Power manage your hard drive, too.

Max Blast Painless hard-drive installation, no matter what type of drive you have.

Maxtor Low Level Format Utility What to use when you want to wipe clean your Maxtor IDE drive.

Seagate SEG32BIT Give Microsoft's generic hard-drive driver the boot and

speed up your 528MB or bigger drive.

System Data Everything you want to know about your BIOS and hard drives.

Modems

Creative Labs Modem Blaster PC Card Setup Files Just in case you need to set up your Modem Blaster again.

Hayes Accura 28.8 Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K How can you pass up more speed for free?

Hayes Optima 28.8 Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Is your modem running as fast it can?

Hayes Optima PC Card with EZ-Jack Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Dial in faster when you're on the road with this upgrade.

Hayes Optima PC Card Without EZ-Jack Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Get the right upgrade for your EZ-Jack.

ISDN Accelerator Pack Put your ISDN hardware to work with this Microsoft add-on.

Megahertz XJ1288 and CC1288 PC Cards Flash ROM Upgrade to 33.6K Boost your Web cruising to 33.6Kbps.

Supra 288/336 Modem Driver Make the

Printer Drivers Get the most from your printer. Make sure you have the most current driver.

Epson Stylus Color 200 Easy Setup for Windows 95 and Windows 3.1

Epson Stylus Color 200 Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Epson Stylus Color 500 Easy Setup for Windows 95 and Windows 3.1

Epson Stylus Color 500 Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Epson Stylus Pro/Pro XL Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Hewlett-Packard 400 DeskJet Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 690C/692C/693C/694C Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 850/855/870 Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5/5M/5N Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5P/5MP Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Lexmark ColorJet 2030 Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Lexmark ColorJet 2050 Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Lexmark ColorJet 2070 Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Lexmark Dptra and Jetprinter Windows 95 PostScript Level 1, Level 2 Driver

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—Windows Magazine, 8/96—



CAD

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—Cadence, 11/96—



VIDEO

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—PC World, 1/97—

The new 8MB H-VRAM Imagine 128 Series 2 graphics accelerator is here.

True 128-bit technology means video *totally rocks*—full frame display and true color, at full frame rates. NT applications burn up the wires. Spreadsheets redraw in the blink of an eye. The biggest CAD monitors fly.

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Programming

Borland Delphi

Agave Custom Control VBX Build great gauges, compasses, stopwatches, and pitch-and-roll controls.

CB Print Suite This collection of components adds comprehensive printing abilities to your Delphi apps.

Conversion Guide: C++ to Delphi Learn the ins and outs of converting C++ to Delphi.

Dcompress Library Incorporate these data compression and decompression routines based on an LZSS/Huffman procedure.

Delphi Knowledge Base Must-have info for the serious Delphi programmer.

Delphi Knowledge Base 2.1 Same name, different program. If you want answers to Delphi questions, draw on a wealth of know-how here.

Delphi Trial Edition Want to sample

Borland's impressive programming tool? Try before you buy.

Delphes Maintain resources, then compile them into linkable files.

Incredible Scrolling Credits Add the all-important fancy credits box to your Delphi application—complete with bouncing ball.

Quick Data Base Store and retrieve data with this "light" alternative to Delphi's data-aware tools.

Animated Quick-bake simple animations like exploding text or turning pages of a book.

Tawk Component Parse text and files with this prebuilt component. Even includes a Visual Basic-like pattern-matching function.

TEnTwain Painlessly acquire images from any TWAIN-compliant device with this application.

Video Card Drivers

Speed up your system with the most current video card driver.

Creative Labs 3D Blaster PCI Windows 95 Driver

Creative Labs 3D Blaster VLB Driver for Windows 95 and Windows NT

Creative Labs Graphic Blaster MA302 Windows 95 Driver

Creative Labs Share Vision PC3000 Windows 95 Driver

Diamond Edge 3D Driver and Utilities

Diamond Fire GL 1000 Windows 95 Driver

Diamond GT Stealth 64 3000 Windows 95 Driver

Diamond SpeedStar 64 2000 Series Windows 95 Driver

Diamond Stealth 3D 2000 Windows 95 Driver

Diamond Stealth 3D 3000 Windows 95 Driver

Hercules Dynamite Windows 95 and Windows 3.1 Driver

Hercules Stingray VL/PCI Windows 95 Driver

Hercules Terminator 64 MPEG Windows 95 Driver

Hercules Terminator 64 Windows 95 Driver

Matrox Millennium Windows 95 and Windows NT Driver

Matrox Millennium Pro Windows 95 and Windows NT Driver

Matrox Mystique Windows 95 and Windows NT Driver

Number Nine 9FX Motion 331 Windows 95 Hawkeye Driver and Utilities

Number Nine 9FX Motion 771 Windows 95 Hawkeye Driver and Utilities

Number Nine Imagine 128 Windows 95 Hawkeye Driver and Utilities

Number Nine Imagine Series 2 Windows 95 Hawkeye Driver and Utilities

TCrypt Encrypt any file from your Delphi program.

TFileCrypt Component Demo Learn how to use the TFileCrypt Component with this sample program.

TInstall Instant installation utility includes file copies and lets you add aliases to the Borland Database Engine application program interface.

TResourceWatch Monitor Windows resources with this component for your Delphi applications.

TSpread Component Include spreadsheets in your Delphi projects with this full-featured component.

TTabListBox Do more with Delphi's TListBox component by allowing tabs in the list-box strings.

TVisAwk Parse text and files with cool visual feedback for users or for debugging. (But you must register to receive the source code.)

TVisAwk Demo See how this parsing program works.

WWWDE Control Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator using DDE in your Delphi app.

Xceed Zip Compression Library This set of compression tools lets you manipulate ZIP files and use data compression in Windows apps.

Macromedia Director

CinéMac for Director Make screen savers in a snap from your Director movies.

Director and Databases Want to connect to a database for your movie? Read this ODBC-XObject primer first.

DLGBlue XObject Create DLLs for your Director projects. Not for the novice.

Movie Utilities XObject Must-have utilities for Director movie developers.

Popup Menu DLL Add pop-up menus to your movies. Easily controlled with Lingo script.

Print-D-Matic Edit page-layout features? Get this.

PrintX Obj Use this DLL to print multiple-page text, even with a footer.

SendEvent XObject Try out this XObject for monitoring mouse-clicks and

keystrokes in your Director projects.

Sound Xtra Record and play WAV-format sounds from Director.

Tracing Projector for Windows Weed the glitches out of Director projects with this debugger.

Transition Tour Explore Director's 52 transition effects in this guided tour.

WinInfo XObject Gain access to comprehensive Windows environment and system information with this DLL XObject.

Microsoft C/C++

Access Counter Count Web-page hits using this C++ CGI script.

Adaptive Communication Environment (ACE) Creating network or communications software? Download these powerful tools and libraries.

API Master In-a-nutshell online guide to writing C/C++ function calls for novices and experts.

C++ Coding Conventions Follow these coding guidelines to make your C++ code readable and streamlined.

C++ Programmer List Looking for the name of a C++ programmer? Start here.

Cghtml Simplify CGI scripting with these public-domain C libraries.

CGILib Pack your Web pages with power with this C++ library for CGI scripting.

Cocoon Generate code documentation in hyperlinked Web format.

Code Print Make your printed code readable with this powerful reformatting and printing utility.

Communications Networks Class Library (CNCL) Use these C++ classes to generate random numbers, statistics, and more.

C Tutorial Learn C basics with this straightforward guide.

CWP Object Oriented Optimization Library (CDDOL) Check out this library for developing optimization codes.

EasyCODE Edit and diagram structures with this cool utility.

Flash Card Screen Saver Author a flash-card screen saver complete with source code.



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BORLAND DELPHI

Component Builder Bypass the Delphi-component learning curve with this jump-start utility.

MACROMEDIA DIRECTOR

Essentials Jazz up your projects with more than 114 buttons and 45 dialog boxes in wood, marble, metal, and wild patterns.

MICROSOFT C/C++

Standard Template Library Use this dynamite set of components to standardize code.

MICROSOFT VISUAL BASIC FOR APPLICATIONS

VB HelpWriter Help is on the way. Write full-featured help files for your Visual Basic applications.

MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMMING

DDE Control Center You've got the power. Control DDE functions from Windows applications

GUI Library Add GUI elements to your programs, from animations to icons. Image editor included.

JemTek CGI Library Confer with this comprehensive library to build dynamic Web CGI scripts in C.

MemGuard Classes Emporium Use these cleanup classes to detect memory leaks, array-boundary violations, and more.

MetaKit Store and transport structured data with these library tools.

MS Visual C++ 4.0 Service Pack 1 If you're making projects with subprojects, download this essential fix.

MS Visual C++ 4.0 Service Pack 2 Grab these fixes for debugging projects and making subprojects.

Object Outline Document your C/C++ applications, complete with source code, comments, and external documents. Create rich text format (RTF) and HTML files.

Personal Communications Library These 38 functions add asynchronous communication to your programs.

QCard DLL Create card games for Windows 3.1 with this DLL.

RT Edit Edit multiple documents with this flexible and powerful Windows editor.

SetTime Learn C++, Microsoft Foundation Classes, and Winsock

programming with this practical example set.

Slider Custom Controls Emulate sliding interface elements with these tools—gauges, meters, controls, and more.

Virtual Windows Class Library Consult these open libraries for tight, compact Windows code.

Visual C++ 4.2b Technology Update Essential update provides Microsoft Internet Explorer and ActiveX support and bug fixes.

WarInstall Prepare apps for installation and distribution on the Net or CD-ROM.

WorldCom MFC Library Includes two customizable grid components and font- and color-selection property pages.

XPerCase Develop and document C++ programs.

Yet Another Class Library Got a thorny programming problem? Apply one of these prefab solutions.

Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications

Code Stylist/VB Format Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) code just the way you like it using this nifty utility.

Mailer This easy-to-use C++/CGI script lets you automatically mail form data.

MDB Maintenance Wizard Automate routine Microsoft Access database

maintenance with this wizard-based tool.

Microsoft's VBA Authoring Guide

Required reading for anyone who wants to automate Microsoft Office applications.

Registration DB DLE Server DLL Access the Windows Registry from your Visual Basic apps with this 32-bit DLL.

Updated VBA232.DLL If your VBA232.DLL is getting you down, replace it with this updated file.

VBScript 2.0 Is your VBScript up to date?

Web Basic Plug-in (32-Bit) Use this plug-in to run WebBasic (Web VBA) apps in Netscape Navigator.

Win32 API Declarations for VBA If you're working with Visual Basic DLLs, download this essential list of declarations.

Word 95 to Word 97 ODBC How to move your Word 95 ODBC applications to Word 97.

WP Macro to VBA Guide Moving your WordPerfect macros to Microsoft Word? Let this technical guide give you pointers.

Miscellaneous Programming

ACGI++ Write CGI applications with this class library for Borland and Visual C++ 4.x.

Arsenal Extend the Windows Help system's abilities with this powerful DLL.

DemoBuilder Create interactive or self-running demos of Windows apps without a lot of fuss.

DiamondWare Sound Toolkit Add music, sound, and more to 16-bit and 32-bit apps written in C++, Visual Basic, Delphi, and more.

DTime Need some date and time functions? Let these MFC classes do the work for you!

DTWinVer Eliminates the guesswork in detecting which operating system version is running.

E for Windows Industrial-strength editing for programs and compilers.

FileZap Examine any file or disk in ASCII or hexadecimal format with this slick application.

Flute Recording macros in Windows 3.1 or 95? Try this powerful alternative.

ForeHTML Quickly generate HTML Help files from Windows Help files.

Free Compiler and Interpreter List Looking for a no-cost compiler or interpreter? Search this list for exactly what you want.

Install/Setup Design professional-looking application installers.

MiniHelp Plus Create full-featured Windows Help files with this quick, low-overhead editor.

Origami With this unique "folding" editor you can organize and view long sections of code by topic.

D'Setup 95 Generate set-up applications for any program, from Windows 3.1 to 95 to NT.

Programmer's File Editor Edit programs of any size (even really big ones) with this editor for Windows 3.1, 95, and NT.

Programmer's Units Converter for Windows Convert units quickly among twips, pixels, points, inches, millimeters, or centimeters.

Registration Wizard Integrate instant registration over the Internet for your Windows 95 and NT apps.

Revision Keep track of versions, backups, archives, and more with this comprehensive utility.

ShareMan Distributing software on floppy disk? Use these security features to keep it safe.

TracePlus32/Winsock 3.1 This application-level tool goes beyond simple API call monitoring and lets you diagnose Winsock work.

W32Dasm Disassemble 16- and 32-bit Windows programs with this trusty tool. Includes a tutorial and an integrated 32-bit debugger.

Windows Help Authoring Tool (WHAT 6) Microsoft's internal help-authoring Word 6 template is now yours! Better yet, it's free.

WinAPI Want to use Windows API features in your Help files? Consult this guide to learn how.



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Pro CD Phonebooks - Select Phone - Northeast - 4th Edition 1997

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		Boston	MA				2	
• Slocotte	95 Swan St	Boston	MA	02113-2217	617-227-0365	5481	0.10 mi NE	25025
• Goodchats Bakery	150 Bowen St	Boston	MA	02113-1248	617-623-8262	5481,5149	0.10 mi NE	25025
• Boston Bakery	600 Washington St	Boston	MA	02111	617-428-0955	5481	0.18 mi E	25025
• Boston Cheesecake	Quincy Mid Pl	Boston	MA	02203	617-742-8537	2052,5481	0.38 mi W	25025
• Baker's Bakery	27 Pleasant St	Boston	MA	02111-1708	617-263-8621	5481	0.60 mi E	25025
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BarBack for Windows Learn to bar-tend with a database of nearly 3,000 drinks.

Home Cookin Don't know what to serve with pot roast? Create your menu here.

Now You're Cooking Julia Child never had it so easy. Organize recipes, generate shopping lists, and coordinate menus.

SudsW 99 bottles of beer on the wall means 99 beer recipes. Organize them with this program.

Wine Cellar Book for Windows Keep a detailed record of your wine collection.

Education

365 Days of StarDate The perfect sky-watching companion for amateur astronomers.

A.D.A.M. Essentials Inspire budding premed students—or review high-school biology—with this layer-by-layer tour of the human body.

DC Challenge Electronics Training System Don't know a circuit from a hole in the ground? Teach yourself all about electronics.

SkyMap Master the universe—or at least our solar system—with the help of this high-quality planetarium program.

TypingMaster Learn to touch-type with this tutor and speed-analysis program.

VectorJockey What goes up must come down: Learn about velocity and acceleration.

Where's Waldo? Exploring Geography Kids have fun searching for Waldo—and learning about geography and different cultures.

Family

Baby Tracker for Windows They grow up so fast! Keep track of their development with this electronic baby book.

Chores and Rewards Motivate your kids to do their chores.

EZ-Tree Genealogy Research and record your family tree.

My Wedding Companion Take the stress out of planning your wedding with this helper.

Pantheon Watch your family tree grow on your computer.

PC Baby Record the important firsts in your baby's life.

Health/Fitness

Aerofit Fitness Log If you know it's working, you'll keep working out. Monitor your progress.

BodyComp 96 Do you date? Use this tool to calculate your body fat.

Breathe Stop smoking now with help from this program.

Cross Trainer Get in shape the high-tech way.

Diet Tracker Who needs SlimFast? Count calories and monitor your weight-loss progress.

Fast Food 95 Learn more than you probably want to know about the fat and calorie content of fast foods.

GetFit 95 Use this tool to monitor daily caloric intake.

NutriGenie Total Nutrition Utilities to calculate your ideal weight and suggest how to reach it.

NutriSoft Weight Perfect Helps you slim down to your desired weight.

Household

3D Home Architect Build your family's dream home—on paper, anyway.

Car Book Plus for Windows Track car mileage and auto-related expenses.

E-Z Credit Kit Bad credit? Do your part to clear your name with this helpful application.

Grocery Consumer for Windows Cut down on extra trips to the store.

Household Register Maintain a detailed list of everything you own.

Multimedia Home Database for Windows Know your stuff. Organize and categorize your home inventory.

Wealth Management System Watch your money grow (and keep your fingers crossed) with this personal investment and finance tracker.

ZLotto Ultra Still haven't hit the jackpot? Get a little help selecting lotto-number combos.

Music

A*B*CD Catalog your audio CD collection with this CD player/database.

AMF Intelligent Organ/Synthesizer Play your favorites—this tool transforms your PC into an organ or a synthesizer.

DSTune32 Use this tool to tune your guitar accurately.

Juker Organize and play all your sound files in a specific or random order.

Mozart the Music Processor Move over, Wolfgang. Create and edit sheet music at your PC's keyboard.

Music Sculptor for Windows A fully functional MIDI sequencer.

The WinkKaraoke Player C'mon, you know you want to—sing along with this Karaoke player for Windows 95.

Wingsong Create and play musical notes on your computer without a special sound card.

Religion

365 Days of Bible Bits Read a different Bible verse every day of the year.

Acts of the Apostles Follow the apostles' travels with this interactive atlas.

BiblePro Study four translations of the Bible in one program.

Fall of Jericho Become familiar with this biblical event and have fun playing an animated Bible game.

God's Word for Windows Enhance your knowledge of the Bible with this definitive resource.

I Ching Empower Tool Ask the I Ching oracle your most pressing life questions and receive immediate answers.

In His Name Display Bible verses and images when you start your PC.

Study Tool: Kitab-i-Aqdas The Most Holy Book Explore the fundamentals of the Baha'i faith.

Sports

ADS League Manager Record statistics from your neighborhood sports teams and leagues.

Basketball Statistics Track real-time game stats on your notebook.

Dart Trainer Become the meanest darts player on your block with this computer coach.

Discover Karate 1 White Belt Discover the martial arts.

GolfScore Analyst for Windows 95 This statistics-keeper pinpoints the strengths and weaknesses in your game.

MESS-TB Customized Tournament Brackets Never draw brackets by hand again.

MicroFox Baseball Statistics for Windows Track ERAs, RBI, batting averages, and other key baseball statistics.

Ski Reports Know your slopes: Get daily ski reports for most major resorts in North America.

StatTrak for Hockey A solid statistics-management system for a hockey league or individual teams.

Best of the Net



EDUCATION

SkyGlobe Planetarium The best astronomy program in the shareware universe.

FAMILY

Memor Tracker Simplify your life with this household PIM. Plus, store key details about every member of the family.

WEATHER

Tracking the Eye for Windows Easy-to-use program tracks tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes.

MISCELLANEOUS HOME AND HOBBIES

Nickelodeon 3D Movie Maker Kids—and parents—will have a blast making their own movies.



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Weather

Eye on Sunrise Moonlight as a weatherperson.

GeoClock for Windows View daylight to darkness across world and local maps.

Storm '95 Hurricane Tracking Software DOS-based tool lets you track and study

hurricanes forming all over the world.

WetSock Check weather conditions and forecasts worldwide.

WinStorm Use this software to follow hurricanes all over the globe.

WinWeather Get the latest forecasts for your area from the Internet.

Cool Stuff

Art and Wallpaper

ActivePix Automatically download Web images to use as desktop wallpaper.

Backdrop Create your own unique wallpaper schemes.

BackGroundScreen Select images from the Web as your wallpaper; this app handles all the dirty work.

Desktop Deluxe Gives you access to all the desktop themes available on the Internet.

Duke Nukem 3D Desktop Theme Put Duke Nukem on your desktop. Every icon, animated cursor, and sound effect from the hit 3-D action game is here.

Escher Prints Three BMP wallpaper sets of famous optical illusions by M. C. Escher: "Reptiles," "Drawing Hands," and "The Waterfall."

Logo Pack 1 A great selection of replacement start-up and shutdown screens for Windows 95.

Macintosh Window 95 Plus Theme Turn your PC into a Mac—in appearance, that is.

Picture Show Transform your desktop into a slide show. Rotate your favorite bitmap files as wallpaper or a screen saver.

Wallpaper Tie a wallpaper image, automatically change the image on start-up, or produce random or sequential patterns.

Wallpaper for Windows This compact program lets you install, manage, and edit wallpaper patterns without much fuss.

Windows 97 Startup Screen Fool your friends into thinking you already have Windows 97.

Windows WallpaperPlus Choose your own wallpaper format and image size.

Clip Art/Graphics

101 Cars PCX Clip Art Hit the road! Choose from 101 pictures of custom Camaros, Corvettes, Mustangs, and more.

Animal Clip Art Get a zooful of color PCX animal images.

Cruisin' Clip Art Revisit the world of *American Graffiti* with 62 PCX files of cars and other images from the '50s and '60s.

Math Clip Art Clip art with mathematical themes—perfect for teachers and math tutors.

Military Images—Modern Military Weapons More than 50 pictures of modern U.S. military weapons, helicopters, and aircraft.

People Clip Art A collection of 30 color PCX images of people at work and play.

Wedding Clip Art Say "I do" to 25 wedding images and two TrueType fonts.

Weddings, Showers, & Invitations You're invited to sample 25 full-color images—bachelor parties, weddings, and baby showers.

Fonts

American Indian Typeface Contains sample pictographs to use as clip art, as logos, and in calendars.

Baby Blocks TrueType Font My first font? This novelty font uses baby blocks as its template.

Fontor View and print the fonts installed on your computer.

Gallaudet American Sign Language Font Displays sign-language symbols instead of letters.

Microsoft Verdana TrueType Font Pack Four TrueType fonts especially for Web designers.

Morse Code Type 1 Font Encrypt documents the *really* old-fashioned way. Use this font to write in Morse code.

My Handwriting Convert your handwriting into a TrueType font.

Railroad Heralds Font All aboard! Grab this scalable typeface of 12 heralds (logos) from railroads like Burlington Route, Rock Island, and others.

Script and Calligraphy Fonts Ten TrueType script-style scalable fonts.

SmileyFace More than 90 variations, including traditional faces plus a smiling cat, fish, alien, computer, dog, and sun.

StarburstFont Spruce up your font collection with more than 100 excellent dingbats, including unique bullets and attention-grabbing background panels.

Stick Letters TrueType Font Whimsical stick figures superimposed over the letters of the Bodoni typeface alphabet.

Superfonts 1 Whatever you've got to say, these 65 headline fonts are perfect for posters, greeting cards, signs, ads, or logos.

Icons and Pointers

Animated Mouse Cursor Watch busy little mice execute all the standard commands: move, resize text, and more.

Cheesehead Icons Set of three cursors for Green Bay Packers fans.

Dilbert Animated Cursor Every computer user's favorite comic character springs to life!

Drop Launcher A drag-and-drop icon for virtually any application.

Hard Disk Animated Cursor Would he make that up?

Jonas' Icon Collection Dress up your desktop with 350 color icons, including NBA and NFL teams, the Spice Girls, other celebrities, and logos.

RISS Icon Pak More than 2,001 icons for Windows, plus a handy icon file viewer.

Scotty's 256-Color Icons Elvis, Captain Kirk, Pee Wee Herman, the Marx Brothers, and Marilyn Monroe are among these 95 icons.

Ski's Icon Editing System Convert game graphics into icons.

Warcraft 2 Icons Every character in the game is here among 32 icons.

X-Files Logo Icons The truth is out there. And so are the icons.

Practical Jokes

Backpack 3 Use these neat and funny BMP images as wallpaper to fool friends and coworkers.

Cat95 This cat changes the mouse cursor all around your desktop.

Best of the Net



ART AND WALLPAPER

365 Days of Off-the-WallPaper Paper your desktop with a different pattern every day for a year.

ICONS AND POINTERS

Star Wars Animated Cursors Use the Force on your desktop: Grab the best collection of *Star Wars* icons out there.

SCREEN SAVERS

Kaleidoscope 95 Turn your display into a kaleidoscope with endless variations of color, movement, and shapes.

SOUNDS


Ted's Event WAVs for Windows #1 High-quality, professional sounds for your system events.

MISCELLANEOUS COOL STUFF

Fiction Magician Cool stuff you want to write a novel? Start with this program.



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1,001 Best Downloads: Cool Stuff and Games

Error A series of error messages, each one worse than the last.

Joke and Prank Two programs that resemble error messages (but aren't).

Prank A Windows trick that drags your desktop around.

Sic Pak Place it in an unsuspecting user's AUTOEXEC.BAT file to simulate a system crash.

Win Prank Keep your practical jokes fresh with this collection of different Windows pranks.

Screen Savers

Adrift Screensaver Quickly draws floating lines across the screen, creating a new, attractive pattern every minute.

Amazing AVI Screen Saver Live up your screen with your favorite animations.

Animated 3D Objects Screen Saver I Create 3-D images for your desktop, then animate and configure them to your choice.

Chicago Bulls Screen Saver for Windows 95 Turn your computer into a virtual cheerleader for one of pro basketball's best winning teams.

Duke Nukem 3D Screen Saver Let Duke Nukem keep an eye on your monitor.

Golf Scenes Screen Saver Get a rotating view of the links you wish you were playing.

Hey, Macaroni Make your screen dance to this Macarena spoof.

Psychedelic Screensavers What a long, strange trip it's been: Decorate your display with shifting patterns from the Summer of Love.

ScrnSaveSwitch/Plus 95 Control your screen savers—patterns, intervals, and frequency.

Stardust Screen Saver Toolkit TE Put your artistic talent onscreen: Create and sell your own screen savers.

StarFlight Gaze at the stars—even during daylight—with this 3-D screen saver.

The Unofficial Quake Screen Saver The opening room of Quake, complete with the occasional teleported player.

Water Spots Screen Saver Raindrops are falling... on your desktop.

Sounds

Female Computer WAVs #1 Let a professional-sounding female voice announce your system events.

Railroad Sounds Realistic train sounds, including signal-bell clanging, whistle blowing, and metal on metal.

Ted's Clueless Valley Girl WAVs Oh, my god, gag me with a spoon. Like, you can totally hear 17 sounds inspired by valley girls.

Ted's Event WAVs for Windows #2 Get your hands on even more high-quality sounds.

Ted's Event WAVs for Windows #3 Still want more? Here they are.

Ted's Male Computer Voice Event WAVs Welcome! Add Elwood "AOL voice" Williams's audio sounds to your system events. *Goodbye!*

Ted's Sci-Fi WAVs for Windows A collection of original sci-fi sounds for your system events.

WinChime Relax to the soothing tinkling of this virtual wind chime.

Miscellaneous Cool Stuff

365 Days of Conk A collection of strange but true stories and real-life headlines.

Abuser Insult friends, coworkers, and family members.

Catz Here, kitty kitty. Adopt a pet cat for your computer.

Celebrity Autograph Collector's Guide Get advice, a printable mail tracker, and more than 10,000 television, movie, music, and sports celebrity addresses from this guide.

Cool Edit 96 This digital-sound editor for Windows 95 acts like a paint program for audio.

Fiction Writer's Reference Kit The cure for writer's block.

Greatest Paper Airplanes Let your PC teach you how to fold extraordinary paper airplanes.

Multimedia Macarena Master Everybody's doing it. Join the mania and learn the Macarena with this multimedia tutorial.

Program X Chart and analyze

biorythms, astrology, and numerology.

Romance Writer Automatically creates

short romances complete with lavish covers and curlicue typefaces. Eat your heart out, Fabio.

Games

Action

Amok Your mission: Destroy an underwater research lab. Along the way, lay waste to divers, sharks, and domes.

Death Rally Battle your way to the finish using your wits and weapons.

Destruction Derby 2 Metal-to-metal contact: Smash 'em up in 3-D.

Doom Annihilate hordes of demons in this classic 3-D shooting game.

Hyperblade Sharpen your skate blades and tape up your stick. This futuristic hockey game offers plenty of attitude—and blood.

MDK As Kurt Hectic, you're the only one who can rescue humanity from the slavery imposed by the evil alien Stream Riders.

MechWarrior 2: Mercenaries You're a Mech for hire in this sequel to Activision's smash hit.

Redneck Rampage Help Leonard and Bubba retrieve a pig abducted by aliens. No kiddin'.

SkullCracker Vanquish the undead as a freelance zombie exterminator.

Adventure

Ace Ventura See the movie, play the game.

Bad Mojo Kafka meets 20th-century gaming—you turn into a cockroach and must regain your human form.

Meridian 59 Decide the fate of the world in an ancient land.

The Neverhood Immerse yourself in the strange, high-tech, clay-animated world of The Neverhood.

Obsidian Try to save your loved ones while trapped in a nightmare.

Tomb Raider: City of Vilecambra Part 1 Join adventurer Lara Croft as she fights armed goons and works to solve the Atlantean mystery deep in the Peruvian rainforest.

Tomb Raider: City of Vilecambra Part 2 More adventures await you as Lara's exploits continue.

Arcade

3D Ultra Pinball 2: Creep Night Play 3-D pinball with goblins and ghouls.

Asteroid Mayhem Remember the classic? Play it again with enhanced 3-D graphics.

Beavis and Butthead in Virtual Stupidity The arcade segment of this adventure game has you hocking loogies at passers-by.

Defender You'll wax nostalgic for the early-80s feel of this game as you zip along rescuing people and blasting aliens.

Epic Pinball Tilt and shoot for the high score in this superrealistic pinball game.

Mario Brothers VGA Before the movie and the cartoon, there was the game.

Mortal Kombat III Show off your moves in this popular fighting game.

Pac Man PC Relive your childhood: Play the original arcade classic with all the original sounds.

QBob A wacky arcade game that resembles the classic game QBert.

Sonic CD Direct Sonic's super stunts to overcome the evil Robotnik and his henchmen.

Auto Racing

Bahn Put the pedal to the metal as you race at top speed down Germany's legendary Autobahn. The game's in German, of course.

Daytona USA Watch out, Dale Earnhardt: Feel the rush behind the wheel at this virtual Daytona speedway.

Monster Truck Madness Mud will fly as you roll your way to victory—and crush whatever's in your path—at the wheel of a super-powered monster.



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ACTION

Duke Nukem 3D Vaporize bloodthirsty aliens in postapocalyptic Los Angeles. **Quake** It's kill or be killed in this 3-D carnage fest.

ADVENTURE

Diablo Choose a persona and enter a shadowy fantasy world.

AUTD RACING

IndyCar Racing 2 Experience white-knuckle speeds (200-plus mph) in an IndyCar cockpit. Choose among 15 tracks.

SIMULATIONS

Hind Climb into the cockpit of a vintage Russian Hind to fly against Uncle Sam's finest.

STRATEGY

Warcraft II: Tides of Darkness The battle for Azeroth continues over land, sea, and air in this fully functional six-level demo.

Need for Speed Race among the elite in an exotic speedster like the Lamborghini Diablo VT or the Porsche 911.

Sega Rally Championship No pavement required: Experience heart-pounding offroad racing.

Test Drive: Offroad Take a wild ride in the world's hottest production four-by-four's.

CARDS

Boxcars Casino Feeling lucky? Try this set of popular casino games, including blackjack, poker, craps, and baccarat.

Hardwood Solitaire II Solitaire is never dull (or lonely) in vibrant color.

Hearts Deluxe Challenge presidents, tyrants, and other fictional characters to a game of hearts.

Hoyle Classic Games You can't play just one. Choose from among the classics with this collection of ten card games.

Magic: The Gathering It's no ordinary card game. Travel through magical Shandalar, building your deck and dueling your PC.

Pretty Good Solitaire What to play when you've outgrown Windows Solitaire. Sixty games to choose from.

Real Video Poker You'd swear you're belly up to a poker table in Vegas.

Ultimate Blackjack Learn as you play in this fully animated card game and gambling tutor.

Games for Kids

Aladdin Based on the Disney movie, this game's rich graphics will keep 'em entertained for hours.

Blobshop Splatter the wall with goo and win the game.

Cyberboard Kid Help Cyril Cyberpunk defend Earth from mutant tiger bears.

Farnsworth Ferret's Fun Pack for Kids Learning is fun with Farnsworth Ferret in five different games.

Freddi Fish and the Case of the Missing Kelp Seeds Help Freddi save the ocean's fish from starvation.

The Jetsons Space Race Late again? Help George Jetson get to work on time.

Toy Story Concentration A memory game that stars characters and music from the hit movie.

Where in the USA Is Carmen Sandiego? Discover the United States in a thrilling chase to stop crime.

Puzzles

Arcy 2 Cool graphics and mind-boggling puzzles from Germany.

Art Quiz Jigsaw Puzzle Restore famous paintings in this jigsaw puzzle game.

Baku Baku An addictive Tetris-like game.

Hangman 2 Test your word power and save the stick figure from certain death in the electronic version of this old standby.

The Incredible Machine 3 Build a better mousetrap and other wacky creations in this puzzle game.

Jewel Master Imagine you're Robin

Leach in this Tetris-style game of the rich and famous.

Varmint's ElTris Kick your competitive nature into high gear with this game—another Tetris clone.

Simulations

1942: Pacific Air War Get a taste for air combat over the South Pacific in this noninteractive demo.

Advanced Tactical Fighters This high-tech sequel to U.S. Navy Fighters has you flying futuristic planes.

Air Warrior II Go back in time as you pilot World War I, II, or Korean War aircraft. Spar against a computer opponent or online against friends.

Black Knight: Marine Strike Fighter Fly the most advanced tactical strike fighter in the United States.

F-22 Lightning II Take control of the Air Force's newest air superiority weapon—the F-22—as you engage in missions against deadly adversaries.

Flight Unlimited Fly daredevil maneuvers in 3-D.

Silent Thunder: A-10 Tank Killer II Take on drug lords, terrorists, and dictators in this intense A-10 Thunderbolt II flight sim.

Sports

3-Point Basketball Shoot three-pointers against top fictional basketball players like Shackle O'Deal.

FIFA 97 If soccer is your religion, here's your new place of worship.

Hard Ball 5 Great stats and world-class baseball action put this game in a league of its own.

Madden NFL 97 Expect state-of-the-art graphics and arcade-style game play in this glossy football favorite.

Microsoft Golf Tighten your grip and get ready to par.

Microsoft NBA Full Court Press Furious five-on-five action in all 29 NBA arenas.

NCAA Basketball: Final Four 97 The computer game for hoopssters who want realistic college-ball simulation.

NHL 96 Blood really does bouce on ice: Check out NHL hockey action.

Trophy Bass 2 for Windows Angle for champion bass with friends around the world.

Virtual Pool Rack 'em up. This definitive pool sim is sure to improve your real game.

Strategy

Battle Chess 4000 Play hilarious, animated battle-chess with magical creatures—or choose 2-D mode for more subdued play.

Command & Conquer: Tiberian Dawn This one's not about politeness: Get ready for real-time thrills, spills, and kills.

Gazillionaire Deluxe A wild intergalactic trading game complete with bizarre aliens, exotic worlds to explore, and dangerous pitfalls.

Lords of the Realm II Dust off your armor and play the sequel to the classic medieval strategy game.

Panzer General Conquer the world as a German general in 1939.

Stars Engage in interstellar colonization.

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Contributors: LESLIE AYERS, JEFF HADFIELD, GORDON MEYER, SHANE MOONEY, DAVID SPARK, NATASHA WANCHEK, and GEOFFREY WILLIAMS.



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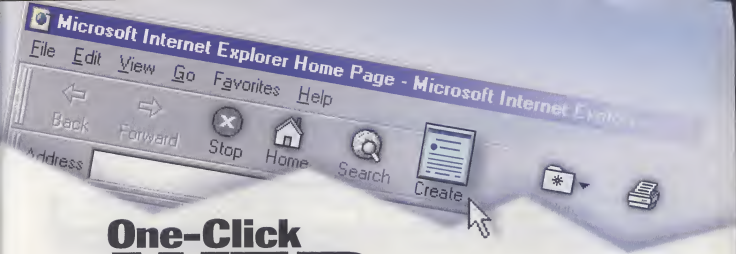


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To find out just how easy it is, *PC Computing's* Usability Labs tested three leading graphical Web publishers: Microsoft FrontPage 97 with Bonus Pack, Claris Home Page 2.0, and NetObjects Fusion 2.0 beta. (Netscape Communicator, the upgrade of Navigator Gold, was not available in time for our testing.) We asked our Web-savvy testers to create a site from scratch using each of the three packages, which take different

**Put your business
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required!**

BY BONNY L. GEORGIA

Instant Home Pages

Got a few hours? That's time enough to build a basic but professional-looking Web site.

When it came to building a home page with text, a few graphics, and a link or two, our testers discovered that Claris Home Page 2.0 was best for the job. It earned passing marks for all four usability factors: formatting, importing, creating links, and updating links. Home Page made it easy to accomplish them all because its intuitive interface works like that of a word processor. For example, testers could immediately import images by dragging and dropping them into place.

A close second to Home Page for basic page design was Microsoft FrontPage 97. As with Home Page, its word processor-style interface made it easy

to get started; but when it came to creating links, testers ran into some trouble

learning FrontPage's approach to linking. They also had difficulty completing many tasks with NetObjects Fusion 2.0, due in part to its confusing, cluttered interface.

If your Web publishing needs are limited to creating a few simple pages that will change very little, the affordable Claris Home Page is for you. But if you expect to make changes to your pages regularly or want to expand your site, it's worth spending a bit more for FrontPage's flexibility.



Familiar Style: Claris Home Page looks and acts like a word processor.

Microsoft FrontPage 97

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓	✓	✓	✓

Claris Home Page 2.0

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓	✓	✓	✓

NetObjects Fusion 2.0

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓	✓	✓	✓

approaches to Web page creation. Claris Home Page, for example, is aimed at novice users who want to make basic pages. It has almost no site-management features and treats each page as a separate project, rather than part of an overall site.

Microsoft FrontPage 97, on the other hand, is a suite of Web publishing tools for novice and intermediate users. FrontPage treats your site as one cohesive project called a Web, rather than separate, stand-alone pages.

Our third package, NetObjects Fusion, is a more sophisticated package for those who want to create moderate-size sites. But you pay for the advanced features: Fusion costs \$495 compared with the \$99 Home Page and \$149 FrontPage. Like FrontPage, Fusion treats all your pages as part of a single site and includes tools for site management.

We asked our testers, who had no HTML experience, to determine which of the packages was easiest to use. First, our testers created a simple home page with

some basic formatting and links. Next, they built a more complex page with multiple links (including one for e-mail) and advanced formatting like background images and borders. Finally, they tackled advanced site-management tasks. For each scenario they evaluated four factors: formatting, importing text and graphics, creating links, and updating links. For details on our usability testing, see "FrontPage Wins," page 239.

Claris Home Page 2.0 Proving it really is ideal for novices, Claris Home Page 2.0 earned the highest scores in productivity, satisfaction, and help in the first two scenarios, although its limited features put it behind Microsoft FrontPage in the second scenario. Our testers liked Home Page's straightforward interface and found linking pages more intuitive than with FrontPage or Fusion, although Home Page lacked some of the features that enhance dynamic pages. In the third scenario, however, Home Page simply couldn't compete. It doesn't have the site-management features you need for building a complex site that

Dynamic Multilink Pages

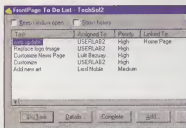
Don't let 'em leave. Keep visitors at your site by ramping up its level of sophistication. For our second scenario, testers created a page with advanced formatting features, including background textures, navigation bars, and e-mail links. Here, Microsoft FrontPage 97 was the top choice. Testers especially appreciated the ability to import existing files by dragging and dropping them into FrontPage Explorer. Also popular were the ready-made WebBot CGI scripts for adding text searches, forms, and other interactive elements. And despite confusion over the difference between FrontPage Explorer and FrontPage Editor, testers found the powerful site-mapping and link-verification tools worth the extra

effort it took to sort them out.

FrontPage did well on all four

tasks, but testers preferred NetObjects Fusion for adding graphics. They also found it easier to link pages and import. And drag-and-drop Fusion components like AutoFrames and MessageBoard let them easily add interactive elements to their pages.

While Claris Home Page has similar features, such as drag-and-drop tables, image maps, and frames, testers could not add interactive elements. Unlike FrontPage and Fusion, Home Page lacks CGI scripts and JavaScript helpers. If you want dynamic pages, FrontPage is the one to choose.



Get It All Done: Microsoft FrontPage 97's To Do List helps you stay on top of growing sites.

includes more than a couple of basic pages and links. Testers found the task of updating links in a complex site to be nearly impossible.

Overall, testers found Home Page easy to use, although they sorely missed some standard Windows features such as familiar online help files.

Microsoft FrontPage 97 While Home Page is a basic Web page publisher, Microsoft FrontPage 97 is a full suite of publishing tools. It includes FrontPage Editor for page creation, FrontPage Explorer for site management and planning, and Image Composer for creating custom artwork. Testers felt comfortable with FrontPage's familiar interface and formatting features, which are almost identical to Microsoft Word's. They also appreciated how easy it was to click and drag files into FrontPage Explorer to save them to their Web site. And it was remarkably easy to make links to e-mail addresses.

Still, FrontPage is not perfect. Though it excelled at importing text, testers had difficulty positioning

Microsoft FrontPage 97

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓	✓	✓	✓

Claris Home Page 2.0

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓		✓	✓

NetObjects Fusion 2.0

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓	✓		

Advanced Site Management

Stale sites are death on the Web. To keep your site alive, make sure your Web publisher shines at site management. Being able to easily add new content, as well as track and update links, is crucial to running a successful Web site. In our final scenario, testers evaluated the three packages at managing a moderate-size site.

FrontPage again proved to be the strongest of the three. FrontPage Explorer made debugging and updating Web pages easy. For example, with the click of a button, FrontPage checks all hyperlinks and fixes any that are broken. When testers were done updating the page, they posted the changes to their Web server with FrontPage's excellent Web Publishing Wizard.

NetObjects Fusion also made a strong showing,

although testers stumbled when formatting and adding new links. But its unique features, like the SiteStyles Manager for global control over a site's look and the MasterBorders utility for placing buttons and logos consistently across a site, were popular with testers.

Claris Home Page simply could not compete in this scenario. Testers were not able to manage their site completely, since automatic site uploading and link testing are Home Page's only management utilities.

Although Fusion and FrontPage are both fully featured, FrontPage's ease of use makes it the best choice for larger sites.



Power Publisher: NetObjects Fusion's SiteStyles Manager gives your site a consistent look.

Microsoft FrontPage 97

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
✓	✓	✓	✓

Claris Home Page 2.0

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
		✓	

NetObjects Fusion 2.0

Formatting	Importing	Creating Links	Updating Links
	✓		✓

because of Fusion's system of distinct text boxes. When they edited text, Fusion didn't automatically resize text boxes. And when they imported text, Fusion replaced the existing content. Testers also disliked Fusion's crowded interface because toolbars and drop-down menus got in the way of page design.

While Fusion takes some getting used to, it also has several features that help you quickly create a site. Its large library of customizable templates makes it easy to establish a look, and its automated scripting tools let you add sophisticated features like feedback forms.

Help Wanted Despite friendly interfaces meant to shield you from HTML, our usability testers still found themselves wrestling with the limitations of the HTML code buried beneath the surface. For instance, several testers had difficulty formatting text. The problems were related to HTML automatically inserting a line space after a paragraph break, not to a shortcoming of the software itself. Also, HTML reads all graphics as a single character within a line,

which means precisely placing a graphic is more involved than simply dragging and dropping the graphic onto a page. All too often, the three packages failed to overcome or explain these HTML quirks in their help files, leaving testers frustrated.

Online help also failed to clearly explain the difference between creating individual HTML pages and an overall Web site. Both FrontPage and NetObjects Fusion treat individual pages as part of a complete project, which simplifies Web site management. But when testers wanted to add links to pages that had not yet been saved to the current project, they ran into problems that they were often unable to solve.

Even with these limitations, using a graphical Web publishing package is a smart choice. You can create a slick-looking site—and make changes to it—without having to learn HTML. Simply spend a few hours designing your site, then post it to your company's Web server or upload it to your Internet service provider.

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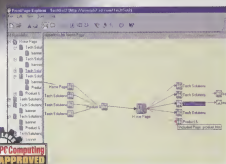
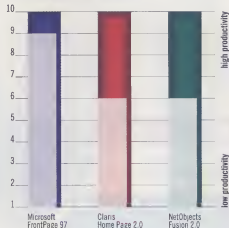
We brought three Web publishing packages—Microsoft FrontPage 97, Claris Home Page 2.0, and the beta version of NetObjects Fusion 2.0—into our Usability Labs and asked testers to create a series of pages from scratch. Our testers, who were experienced with the Web but not familiar with HTML programming, used the packages to build first a simple page with a few links, then a more complex page with multiple

links and advanced formatting. Finally, they managed a moderate-size site with sophisticated formatting and links.

For each scenario, testers evaluated the packages on four key factors: formatting, importing text and graphics, creating links, and updating links.


These factors were combined with ratings for productivity, satisfaction, and quality of help to determine an overall Productivity Index score. FrontPage scored a 9—high enough to earn our Usability Seal of Approval. Home Page and Fusion, however, did not merit the seal with scores of 6 each. LULIT BEZUAJEHU

Productivity Index



Cool Looks: Microsoft FrontPage 97 earned our Usability Seal of Approval thanks to features like its visual site navigation.

Top Web Publishers

Product	Price*	Pros	Cons	Unique Features	Verdict
 Microsoft FrontPage 97 (800) 426-9400 <i>Reader Service No. 718</i>	\$149	All-in-one suite; integrates with Microsoft Office.	Online help could be better.	Import Wizard adds existing Web sites; hyperlink view displays all links between pages.	★★★★★ Our favorite combo: powerful, easy to use, and affordable.
Claris Home Page 2.0 (800) 544-8554 <i>Reader Service No. 719</i>	\$99	Straightforward interface; inexpensive.	No Web management features; weak help.	Drag-and-drop tables and hotlinking; graphics library.	★★★★ Perfect for creating basic Web pages.
NetObjects Fusion 2.0 beta (888) 449-8400 <i>Reader Service No. 720</i>	\$495	Great customizable templates; strong site-management tools.	Cluttered interface; steep learning curve; high price.	SiteStyles Manager for control over a site's look; MasterBorders for navigation buttons.	★★★ Experience and plenty of cash required if you plan to use this powerful tool.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Acceptable ★ Poor ☆ Unacceptable

Get Published

You don't have to be a full-time Webmaster to build and manage a successful site. These packages prove it.

Microsoft FrontPage 97 earns our Usability Seal of Approval for its familiar interface and sophisticated tools. Despite its insufficient help and confusing save feature, FrontPage put testers more at ease than any other product. An integrated suite of utilities for building, publishing, and managing your site, FrontPage is simple enough to create complex sites with relative ease, but powerful enough to provide support for professional Web publishing needs.

Coming in a close second to FrontPage for productivity and satisfaction, Claris Home Page 2.0 pleased our testers with its intuitive editing tools and no-nonsense approach to building links. Though it lost points for its minimal site-management tools and incomplete help, Claris Home Page is an effective and inexpensive choice for building personal home pages or simple small-business sites.

While FrontPage and Home Page are perfect for creating a few pages or a simple site, NetObjects

Fusion 2.0 is a breakthrough product that makes the most sense in the hands of professional site designers. Fusion's desktop publishing layout gave testers precise control over the graphic elements of pages, but was somewhat clumsy for text-importing and formatting tasks. Fusion lets you add advanced page elements like HTML frames or JavaScript in a snap, and the SiteStyles Manager helps you give your site a consistent look. However, to reach those who want only basic Web publishing, Fusion needs a lower price, a more accessible interface, and improved help.

The next version of Claris Home Page (due out this summer) promises more site-management tools; and you can expect to see improved usability in the next version of NetObjects Fusion. In the meantime, Microsoft FrontPage 97 is the one to buy.

BONNY L. GEORGIA is a freelance writer based in Massachusetts. Lab testing was performed by LULIT BEZUAYEHU, LYDIA KARLOWICZ, and ANDRÉ LEACH.

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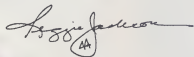
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- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 2nd Lithium Ion Battery
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- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Color Display
- 24MB RAM/2.1GB Hard Drive
- NEW PCI Bus with 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 64K Colors
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
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- ★ Leather Carrying Case, add \$129.

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- 1600 x 1200 @ 77Hz
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- TCO Compliance
- Professional Series

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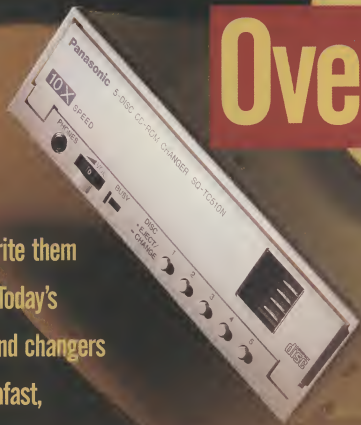
Circle 171 on reader service card.

CD-ROM in

Overdrive

Don't write them off yet. Today's drives and changers are ultrafast, ultracheap—and it's easy to burn your own discs.

BY MARTY JEROME



Here's to the last CD-ROM drive you'll ever buy. Your next upgrade will be a DVD-ROM drive, but for now we're still waiting for DVD applications. Until then, everything from workaday productivity programs to multimedia references to on-line database demand every jot of performance your CD-ROM drive can muster. Now in its golden years, the technology reaches stunning throughput approaching that of your hard drive. And whether you're looking for a single drive, a multidisc changer, or a CD-recordable drive, we'll show you the very best in price and performance.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK JOHNSON

Fast and Affordable

Forget a CD-ROM's X rating. A drive's advertised speed doesn't always reflect its true performance. After running 14 drives—8-speed, 12-speed, and 16-speed models—through a series of tests, *PC Computing's* Labs proved that 16-speed drives don't necessarily outperform 12-speed drives. Both, however, outpace 8-speed drives. (See "The X Factor: When 12X Is Faster Than 16X," page 248.)

Toshiba America's fiery 12-speed XM3801B takes top honors for overall performance. Credit goes to its 256K cache and SCSI interface. Also, the drive uses Partial-Constant Angular Velocity, a new technology that boosts access times when the drive reads the outer third of a disc, where performance typically lags. At \$290 it's not the cheapest of the lot, but it has a decided performance edge.

Tempting Trade-offs You can shave more than \$100 off the Toshiba's price, yet sacrifice only a little in performance with Pioneer's 12-speed DR-444. In our tests, the Pioneer's access times were actually a tad faster than the Toshiba's. (Actual access times as tested in *PC Computing's* Labs sometimes differ from the vendor's ratings.) If the Pioneer had a bigger cache (it comes with only 128K), it probably would have performed on a par with the Toshiba. No matter: Its low price and high performance make it our top pick overall.

Sony's 16-speed CDU511, which is sold only preinstalled by system makers, was slightly slower



Fast, Simple, and Cheap: Pioneer's 12-speed DR-444 outperformed every 16-speed drive we tested. And at \$179, it delivers the best price-performance combo you'll find.

than the Pioneer and costs \$20 more. But it's a good choice if you want an EIDE drive. So is Teac's 16-speed CD-516E, which costs \$50 less than than the Sony CDU511, yet trailed its performance by a single percentage point.

Among SCSI drives, Plextor's 12-speed 12Plex PX-12C5i turned in fast access times. Its overall performance was admirable, and its \$289 price includes an Adaptec SCSI controller card. Panasonic's 8-speed LK-MC608S, on the other hand, turned in dismal performance scores given its SCSI interface. At \$319 without a controller card, it's clearly a dated design. So is Micro Design's 12-speed SCSI Express CD12X, which at \$437 is curiously overpriced.

Drive Deals The best news about today's speedy CD-ROM drives is price. Bargains abound. Hitachi's 16-speed CDR-8130 turned in the fastest access times, but its small 128K cache hurt its overall speed. Still, at \$130 it's a no-brainer for speedy performance on a tight budget.

Diamond Multimedia's \$349 12X Multimedia Kit may seem expensive at first blush, but it's a complete package that includes a sound card, speakers, and a superb software bundle. We only wish the drive's performance were better. Likewise, Samsung's 12-speed SCR-1231 could use a jolt in speed, but at \$125, how can we complain? Kudos to the Samsung's audio ports on the back of the drive for both digital and analog signals. The drive is certainly a better deal than its 8-speed sibling (the SCR-831), which, although \$40 cheaper, is the slowest drive we tested.

Performance: CD-ROM Drives

Toshiba XM3801B (12X)	16.5% faster
Pioneer DR-444 (12X)	16.5% faster
Sony CDU511 (16X)	16.5% faster
Teac CD-516E (16X)	16.5% faster
Plextor 12 Plex PX-12C5i (12X)	16.5% faster
Creative Labs Blaster CD 1800 (12X)	16.5% faster
Micro Design SCSI Express CD12X (12X)	16.5% faster
Hitachi CDR-8130 (16X)	16.5% faster
Samsung SCR-1231 (12X)	16.5% faster
Diamond 12X Multimedia Kit (12X)	16.5% faster
Teac CD-512E (12X)	16.5% faster
LG Electronics GoldStar GCD-R580B (8X)	16.5% faster
Panasonic LK-MC608S (8X)	16.5% faster
Samsung SCR-831 (8X)	16.5% faster

NOTE: CD-ROM WINMARK 95 IS A TEST THAT MEASURES CD-ROM DRIVE PERFORMANCE UNDER WINDOWS 95. ALL DRIVES TESTED ON A DELL DIMENSION XPS 8200.

Surprise! In overall performance, 12-speed drives from Toshiba and Pioneer edged out ultraspeedy 16-speed drives from Hitachi, Sony, and Teac.

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*Price comparison based on MSRP's as of 2/17/97

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Top CD-ROM Drives

Product	Price*	Speed	Interface Type	Access Time/ Cache	Pros	Cons	Verdict
 Pioneer DR-444 (800) 444-8884 <i>Reader Service No. 687</i>	\$179	12X	SCSI	100ms/ 128K	Fierce performance; aggressive price.	A skimpy cache; complicated SCSI interface.	★★★★ The best price and performance combo.
Hitachi America CDR-8130 (800) 448-2244 <i>Reader Service No. 688</i>	\$130	16X	EIDE	90ms/ 128K	Solid performance; superb price.	A larger cache would make performance stellar.	★★★★ High performance for tight budgets.
Plextor 12Plex PX-12CSI (800) 753-9816 <i>Reader Service No. 689</i>	\$289	12X	SCSI	105ms/ 512K	Admirable speed; big cache; interface card included.	Do you really want to install a SCSI device?	★★★★ A SCSI speedster- adapter included.
Samsung SCR-1231 (800) 933-4110 <i>Reader Service No. 690</i>	\$125	12X	EIDE	150ms/ 256K	Respectable performance; unbeatable value.	No manual eject button.	★★★★ Costs less than your last client dinner.
Sony CDU511 (800) 352-7669 <i>Reader Service No. 691</i>	\$199	16X	EIDE	105ms/ 128K	Blazing performance; easy installation.	Middling price; skimpy cache.	★★★★ Smoking speed—an all-around solid drive.
Teac America CD-516E (213) 728-0303 <i>Reader Service No. 692</i>	\$149	16X	EIDE	150ms/ 128K	Excellent performance; excellent price.	Stingy cache.	★★★★ Fast and cheap 16-speed pick.
Toshiba America XM3801B (714) 457-0777 <i>Reader Service No. 693</i>	\$290	12X	SCSI	99ms/ 256K	Fastest CD-ROM drive we tested.	Fussy SCSI interface.	★★★★ If only the fastest will do, get this drive.
Creative Labs Blaster CD 1800 , (800) 998-5227 <i>Reader Service No. 694</i>	\$180	12X	EIDE	150ms/ 256K	Excellent audio controls; good software bundle.	No manual eject button.	★★★★ A solid middle-of- the roader.

* ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable

The X Factor: When 12X Is Faster Than 16X

The salesman who sold you that 16-speed drive promised it was the fastest one available. So why are 12-speed drives outpacing it? Before you threaten to pummel the guy with the 16-speed drive he sold you, take a deep breath. Yes, some 12-speed drives outperform 16-speed drives. But your salesman didn't deceive you.

Until very recently most CD-ROM drives used a method called Constant Linear Velocity (CLV) to access data. This technique varies the rotation speed of the disc: It rotates faster when accessing the inside tracks and slower when reading outside tracks, where more data is packed onto a single track. If the speed didn't reduce as the head moved outward, data would zip by faster than the drive's digital signal processor (DSP) could read it.

These changing speeds cause delays as the read head waits for the drive to speed up or down. To

reduce the overhead of changing spin rates, some drives now incorporate Constant Angular Velocity (CAV) technology. CAV spins the disc at a constant speed as the head moves across the disc, resulting in increased speed as the head moves from the center to the outside of the disc.

Tag-Team Technologies Some CD-ROM drive makers use a combination of both technologies called Partial-CAV (P-CAV). This method employs CAV when reading data from the inner two-thirds of the disc, then switches to CLV for the outer areas of the disc. The combination causes data-transfer rates to vary across the disc: slower rates when reading the center section, but faster rates when reading the outermost tracks. In some cases, a drive performs even faster than its X rating when reading outside tracks.

The X speed advertised by some manufacturers may

Product	Price*	Speed	Interface Type	Access Time/Cache	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Diamond Multimedia 12X Multimedia Kit (800) 468-5864 <i>Reader Service No. 695</i>	\$349	12X	EIDE	130ms/ 256K	Great multimedia bundle—sound card, speakers, and software library.	Unimpressive performance.	☆☆☆ A fair upgrade package if your system needs audio, too.
Samsung Electronics America SCR-831 (800) 933-4110 <i>Reader Service No. 696</i>	\$85	8X	EIDE	150ms/ 256K	Least expensive of the lot.	Bottom-of-the-barrel performance; no manual eject button.	☆☆☆ Get the 12-speed model for just \$40 more.
Teac America CD-512E (213) 726-0303 <i>Reader Service No. 697</i>	\$149	12X	EIDE	150ms/ 128K	Good price.	Lackadaisical performance; skimpy cache.	☆☆☆ Its faster sibling is a far better buy.
LG Electronics GoldStar GCD-R580B (800) 243-0000 <i>Reader Service No. 698</i>	\$129	8X	EIDE	140ms/ 128K	Aggressive price.	Yawning performance; stingy cache.	☆☆ Wait for the upgrade.
Micro Design Int'l SCSI Express CD12X (800) 228-0891 <i>Reader Service No. 699</i>	\$437	12X	SCSI	115ms/ 256K	Relatively painless installation for a SCSI device.	Average performance; shocking price; external drive.	☆☆ Better deals abound.
Panasonic LK-MC608S (800) 742-8086 <i>Reader Service No. 700</i>	\$319	8X	SCSI	150ms/ 256K	Fine hand-holding for the SCSI-wary.	Sluggish eight-speed performance; yesterday's design; external drive; controller card not included.	☆☆ We'd prefer this drive in a size 12X.

* ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

☆☆☆☆ Excellent ☆☆☆ Good ☆☆☆ Acceptable ☆☆ Poor ☆ Unacceptable

be the transfer rate for only the outside tracks of a disc because this is where you get the best performance. However, data is burned onto a CD from the inside out, so the drive rarely reaches its rated speed. Some drive manufacturers have chosen to forgo P-CAV, and use just CAV to make the read speed the same across a CD. These drives may not sport the highest X ratings, but they often outperform higher-rated drives.

Get Control Your drive's interface also plays a role in throughput. SCSI controllers offload a lot of the work routinely handled by your system's CPU, thereby leaving it free for other chores. And SCSI drives typically boast faster performance when using multimedia apps and when multitasking. The trade-off? You generally pay more for a SCSI drive up front, although our top-rated drive, the Pioneer DR-444, is an exception. Also consider SCSI's added complexity, compared with the more

Performance: CD-ROM Drives

Toshiba XM3801B (12X)

Teac CD-516E (16X)

Mitsumi FX400 (4X)

NOTE: CD-ROM WINMARK 95 IS A TEST THAT MEASURES CD-ROM DRIVE PERFORMANCE UNDER WINDOWS 95. ALL DRIVES TESTED ON A DELL DIMENSION NPS M200.

Speed 'Em Up: P-CAV helps 12-speed drives like Toshiba's XM3801B outperform 16-speed drives.

affordable and easy-to-install Enhanced IDE interface. Sound confusing? There's more: The type of CD-based applications you use also affects your drive's throughput. Meanwhile, next-generation DSPs will have drives spinning faster still—so hold on for the ride.

Hold Everything

Here's a cure for carpal tunnel syndrome: Stop changing CDs in and out of your system's drive tray. Store them in a CD changer instead. Having up to 4GB of information just a mouse click away is a revelation in productivity—not to mention less strain for your wrists.

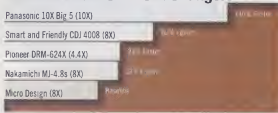
If you think the cost of changers is prohibitive, consider that prices have plunged over the last three years. Four- to six-disc models typically cost less than \$500. And as *PC Computing's* Labs discovered with the five internal and external changers we tested, you may sacrifice performance, but you gain a lot in the way of convenience. So why settle for a drive that holds only one disc when you can have one that accommodates as many as six?

Stack 'Em The Panasonic 10X Big 5 is a case in point. The only 10-speed drive in this roundup, its performance sailed past every other changer we tested—by more than 100 percent in some cases. This is particularly surprising considering it's the only unit among this group to use an EIDE interface. Although EIDE makes a drive easier to install, it's typically a performance handicap compared with a SCSI interface.

This internal EIDE drive was a breeze to install. You can have the five-disc Panasonic up and running in less than 15 minutes. EIDE also lowers the cost. At \$249, the Panasonic is one of the cheapest changers of the lot—cheaper, in fact, than many comparable single-disc drives. Kudos to the bundled software, which lets you view the device as a single drive or assign five separate drive letters. Make no mistake: The Panasonic 10X Big 5 is the price-performance leader.

At \$249, Nakamichi's internal 8-speed MJ-4.8s costs the same as the Panasonic and comes bundled with an Adaptec SCSI-2 controller card. Installation was relatively painless thanks to Plug and Play—Windows 95 recognized the drive immediately and assigned separate drive letters to the four disc trays.

Performance: CD-ROM Changers



NOTE: CD-ROM BENCHMARK IS A TEST THAT MEASURES CD-ROM DRIVE PERFORMANCE UNDER WINDOWS 95 ON DRIVES TESTED ON A DELL DIMENSION XPS MODEL

Quick-Change Artist: Even with an EIDE interface, Panasonic's 10-speed changer roared ahead of the pack in overall performance.



King of Convenience: If you want the fastest, most affordable CD changer, look no further than Panasonic's \$249 10X Big 5. It's also the easiest to install and put to work.


With better performance and another disc tray, the Nakamichi would be a fair alternative to the Panasonic 10X Big 5.

Spin 'Em Smart and Friendly's external 8-speed CDJ 4008 CD-ROM Jukebox was second to the Panasonic in overall performance—although by a considerable margin. Still, it is pleasingly compact and has an excellent bundle, including an Adaptec SCSI adapter and a fine collection of software. You get Adaptec's CD Power Tools and utilities for building a database of CDs, assigning drive letters, and playing audio discs. If you prefer to save a drive bay by getting an external model, this \$399 CD changer should be on your shortlist.

Pioneer's \$475 DRM-624X costs more than the Smart and Friendly drive, but it's the only changer we tested that holds up to six discs. Problem is, it's only a 4.4-speed drive. Performance was good considering the dated technology; it was third fastest overall. The Pioneer comes with an Acculogic controller card, but be prepared for stubborn installation. Even so, it's a good external changer for juggling lots of CDs.

Micro Design's external four-disc SCSI Express SE4CD8X occupies a dubious place in this roundup. It's expensive (\$726), yet its performance lagged considerably behind all the other changers we tested. The price includes neither a controller card, nor much else in the way of software or multimedia. Just about any way you look at it, there are better changers for less money.

Top CD Changers

Product	Price*	Speed	Interface Ports Included	No. of Discs	Internal or External	Access/Transfer Cache	Pros	Cons	Verdict
 Panasonic 10X Big 5 (800) 742-8086 <i>Reader Service No. 701</i>	\$249	10X	None	5	Internal	130ms/ 128K	Best performance; lowest price; easy installation; great bundled software.	What more could you ask for?	★★★★★ The best changer for the money, hands down.
Smart and Friendly CDJ 4008 CD-ROM Jukebox (818) 366-6001 <i>Reader Service No. 702</i>	\$399	8X	Adaptec AVA-1502 ISA-to- SCSI Host Adapter	4	External	150ms/ 256K	Fine performance; convenient footprint; excellent software.	Fussy installation; middling price.	★★★★ If only an external changer will do, this should be on your shortlist.
Nakamichi America MJ-4.8s (310) 538-8150 <i>Reader Service No. 703</i>	\$249	8X	None	4	Internal	150ms/ 256K	Easiest SCSI installation of the lot; lowest price.	Weak performance.	★★★ Better performance and room for an extra disc would give this changer an edge.
Pioneer New Media Technologies DRM-624X (800) 872-4159 <i>Reader Service No. 704</i>	\$475	4.4X	Aocologic ISAport/ 10P	6	External	150ms/ 128K	Largest disc capacity; remarkable performance for a 4.4-speed drive.	It's still a 4.4-speed drive; stubborn installation.	★★★ When disc capacity matters more than performance, consider this changer.
Micro Design Int'l SCSI Express SE4CD8X (800) 228-0891 <i>Reader Service No. 705</i>	\$726	8X	None	4	External	150ms/ 256K	Easy installation despite the SCSI interface; smart push-button disc loading; optional NT package.	Pitiful performance; unrealistic price.	★★★ You can do better.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE

★★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable

DVD vs. CD-ROM: Is CD-ROM Dead?

Thanks to DVD, CD-ROM's days are numbered—the marketing drum promoting DVD technology is downright mesmerizing. But for now, CD-ROM still dominates the market due to its lower prices and because it is the common media for most apps.

DVD's advantages speak for themselves. Each DVD disc holds 4.7GB of data—seven times the capacity of today's CDs. And eventually they'll hold up to 26 times what a CD holds. In other words, a DVD disc holds an entire two-hour, full-motion movie with subtitle tracks, surround-sound audio, parental controls, and multiple languages. A copyright scheme has already been adopted by major motion-picture studios.

DVD drives cost more than conventional CD-ROM drives—between \$500 and \$700 for 8-speed and 10-speed models. But within a year, prices will drop

by a third. What's more, they're entirely backward compatible with today's CD-ROM drives. And the formats for DVD drives and DVD players (which work with your TV) are exactly the same, making the discs interchangeable.

Still not convinced? DVD-recordable drives—tentatively called DVD-RAM—are already in the works. The initial capacity of discs created on these drives will be only 2.6GB. But unlike CD-recordable discs, DVD-RAM discs will be erasable. This provides enormous flexibility for backing up, archiving, and transporting large amounts of data.

Few technologies hit the market assured of dominating the industry—this is one of them. The question isn't whether DVD will be a part of your future; it's when you'll make the conversion.

Burn Your Own

Five years ago only the bravest businesspeople burned their own CDs. A basic CD-recordable (CD-R) drive cost more than \$10,000, and even the best software made recording CDs a torture session.

How things change. Three of the eight CD-R drives in this roundup cost less than \$500 and they all cost less than \$1,000. Performance has jumped too: All eight read CDs at quad-speed or six-speed, and record at double-speed or quad-speed. (The sheer size of the read-write heads makes it unlikely that we'll see 12-speed or 16-speed CD-Rs anytime soon.) And thanks to helpful wizards and refined interfaces, anyone can create a CD in minutes—though it's certainly not a foolproof process.

Easy Does It Creative Labs' internal Blaster CD-R 4210 demonstrates how far the technology has come. The Blaster CD-R costs \$499—the price includes an Adaptec SCSI controller as well as Adaptec's EZ Backup and Easy-CD Pro, the best recording software on the market. The Blaster CD-R is so affordable and easy to use, you'll want to present your business presentations on CD, create your own audio discs, and use it with a keyboard scanner to archive every paper document that crosses your desk.

Installation was surprisingly simple even though, like all the recorders we tested, the Blaster CD-R is a SCSI device. And it turned in the best overall performance scores for reading CDs, though writing

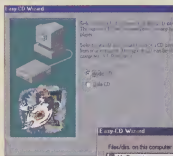


Write Stuff: Creative Labs' Blaster CD-R 4210 costs only \$499, and comes with a SCSI adapter and excellent software. It's not the fastest drive we tested, but its value is unbeatable.

performance was less impressive. Affordable, hassle-free, and fast—it's what all CD-Rs should be.

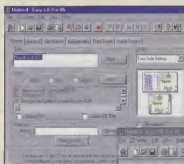
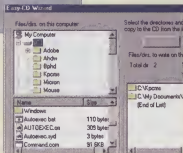
Record Time Of course, if you need to burn lots of large files on CD, you want all the performance you can get. Teac's CD-R50S 4X4 CD-Recordable boasts the fastest record performance overall. It comes

STEP BY STEP PRESS THE PERFECT CD



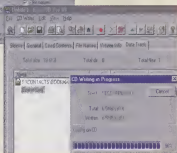
Step 2: Select the files you want to copy onto the disc by highlighting them in the Explorer-like directory, then clicking on Add.

Step 1: Adaptec's Easy-CD Pro software uses a wizard that walks you through each step, making it easy to burn discs. To begin, choose whether to make an audio or data CD.



Step 4: To start the recording process, click on the red record button on the toolbar. A handy dialog box shows the status of your CD, and notifies you when the job is complete.

Step 3: Before burning your disc, the wizard helps you create a CD jacket, giving you several style options.



Top CD-Recordable Drives

Product	Price*	Bundled Software	External or Internal/Cache	Speed (Internal/Head)	Pros	Cons	Verdict
 Creative Labs Blaster CD-R 4210 (800) 998-5227 <i>Reader Service No. 706</i>	\$499	Adaptec Easy-CD Pro, Adaptec EZ Backup	Internal/ 1MB	2X/4X	Stellar read performance; excellent bundle; superb value.	Sleepy recording performance.	★★★★ Easy and inexpensive CD publishing—the way it ought to be.
JVC Personal Archiver Plus System (714) 816-6500 <i>Reader Service No. 707</i>	\$499	Personal Archiver Software, CD-R Extensions	External/ 1MB	4X/4X	Bargain price for the speed; fine record performance.	Weak software bundle.	★★★★ A good value, but buy your own software.
Smart and Friendly CD-R 2006/Pro (800) 959-7001 <i>Reader Service No. 708</i>	\$499	Adaptec Easy-CD Pro, MediaPath MediaAgent	External/ 512K	2X/6X	Decent record performance; rich software bundle.	Slow read performance.	★★★★ Great software at a price you can afford.
Teac America CD-R50S 4X4 CD-Recordable Drive (213) 728-0303 <i>Reader Service No. 709</i>	\$799	CeQuadrat WinOnCD 3.0	Internal/ 1MB	4X/4X	Superb performance across the board.	Pricy; weak software bundle.	★★★★ If speed matters more than price, this one is for you.
Hewlett-Packard SureStor CD-Writer 6020 (800) 828-4111 ext. 2288	\$599	Adaptec Easy-CD Pro, Alchemy	External/ 1MB	2X/6X	Sleek looks; excellent read performance.	Pricy when you consider there's no adapter card.	★★★ Fine if you already own a SCSI adapter.
Pinnacle Micro RCD 4X4 (800) 553-7070 <i>Reader Service No. 710</i>	\$899	Adaptec Easy-CD Pro, Disc Archive95	External/ 1MB	4X/4X	Stunning record performance; breezy installation.	Most expensive of the bunch.	★★★ A hot performer, but not a great deal.
Plexstor PlexWriter 2/4 (800) 753-9816 <i>Reader Service No. 711</i>	\$569	Adaptec Easy-CD Pro	Internal/ 512K	2X/4X	Polished design; solid bundle.	Lazy performance.	★★★ A fine, if lackadaisical, drive.
Microboards PlayWrite 2040 (800) 646-8881 <i>Reader Service No. 712</i>	\$559	Elektroson Gear MultiOS	External/ 2MB	2X/6X	Big 2MB cache.	Slow performer; weak software bundle.	★★ Better deals abound.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable

with an AdvanSys PCI SCSI controller and CeQuadrat's WinOnCD 3.0 record software, which is a capable package but more difficult to master than Adaptec's Easy-CD Pro. But the price for this stellar performance is steep: \$799.

Pinnacle Micro's \$899 RCD 4X4 is even more expensive, but it comes with an Adaptec SCSI controller and Easy-CD Pro, and was only a bit slower than the Teac. On the other hand, it's an external unit, which saves you a drive bay. And installation was a breeze.

Too rich for your blood? Like Creative Labs' Blaster CD-R, JVC's external Personal Archiver Plus System costs only \$499. Its record performance was respectable for a quad-speed drive, though its quad-speed read performance was middling. With the money you save you can upgrade from the somewhat arcane Personal Archiver Software and CD-R Extensions that come bundled with the drive to something easier to use, such as Easy-CD Pro.

Smart and Friendly's CD-R 2006/Pro and Hewlett-Packard's SureStor CD-Writer 6020, both external drives, cost \$499 and \$599, respectively. Both recorders offer double-speed write

and six-speed read times, yet the CD-R 2006/Pro performed slightly faster than the SureStor in writing chores, and considerably slower in reading tasks. Even so, the HP SureStor doesn't support Whitebook and PhotoCD file formats; except for the Microboards PlayWrite 2040, every other drive supports them. Overall, the Smart and Friendly is the better of the two. Its excellent software bundle includes Adaptec's Easy-CD Pro, MediaPath MediaAgent, Packet Recording, and Macromedia Backstage Designer Pro.

The entries from Microboards and Plexstor both earned poor performance scores, yet they're priced on the high side. Microboards' external PlayWrite 2040 (\$559) ships with Elektroson's difficult Gear MultiOS software and no SCSI adapter. Plexstor's internal PlexWriter 2/4 (\$569) comes with an Adaptec SCSI adapter and Easy-CD Pro. It's definitely the better of the two.

Finally, we recommend upgrading drives with ISA controllers—those from Creative Labs, JVC, Pinnacle Micro, Smart and Friendly, and Teac—to a faster PCI controller for optimal performance when recording.

CD Solutions

Just try to live without one. A slow and quirky peripheral only five years ago, the CD-ROM drive is now as essential to business computing as the hard drive.

Whether you're buying your last stand-alone drive or CD changer before DVD finally arrives, or you need a CD-recordable drive to create your own discs—price, performance, and usability should be your key considerations. And bear in mind that performance isn't reflected simply in a drive's rated speed. You have to dig deeper.

Pioneer's 12-speed DR-444, for example, outperformed all but one drive (the ultraspeedy Toshiba XM3801B) in our roundup. Its excellent SCSI performance would have made it our winner regardless, but its \$179 price tag sweetens the deal and makes for quick depreciation as you wait for DVD.

As CD changers go, you won't find one that's faster or cheaper than Panasonic's 10X Big 5. Its performance—which owes partly to the fact that it's the only 10-speed changer in this roundup—had our lab testers scratching their heads in amazement. Yet at \$249 it's the cheapest model on the block. It manages

five discs, while most changers handle only four. And its bundled software is mercifully easy to use.

Although CD-recordable drives can't deliver the performance of read-only drives, we've seen a doubling—and in some cases a quadrupling—in speed compared with drives only a year ago. And yet with that extra performance, prices have actually gone down. When buying a CD-R drive you have to consider the whole bundle in terms of usability: the adapter card, performance, and software.

For these reasons we gave Creative Labs' Blaster CD-R 4210 top honors. At \$499 it's one of the cheapest CD-R drives you'll find, and it comes with Adaptec's SCSI adapter and Easy-CD Pro software, which is quickly becoming the industry standard. And its performance for reading CDs is top-notch. It's an excellent package all the way around. So if you've been reluctant to buy a CD-R because of the cost, hassle, or performance, you're out of excuses.

Lab testing was conducted by IBRAHIM GUL, HAL HABERMAN, and JOHN RYAN.

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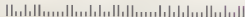
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Windows 95

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Emergency Rescue & Recovery	YES	YES	Minimal	Minimal
Hardware Diagnostics	YES	DOS only	—	—
System Monitor	YES	YES	—	—
Crash Recovery	YES	YES	YES	YES
Crash Protection	YES	—	—	—
Easy System Configuration	YES	YES	—	—
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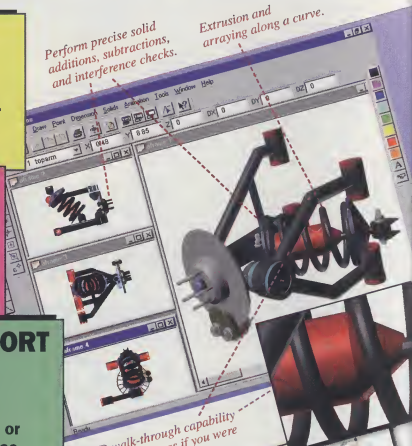
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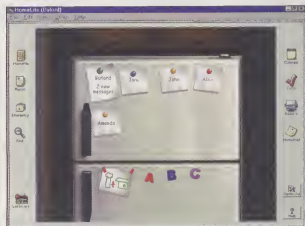
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INFORMATION MANAGER

Day-Timer HomeLife

Got a harried household that could use some organizing? Load up Day-Timer HomeLife, a family-oriented personal information manager with a downright neighborhood face. It offers the kinds of goods even the Brady Bunch would find useful.

HomeLife's graphic calendar lets you easily set and display appointments. And like any competent PIM, HomeLife alerts you to appointments, tasks, birthdays, and anniversaries.



HomeLife offers separate log-ons and passwords for everyone in your household. It also features a built-in messaging system so family members can send notes to one another. The program alerts users to waiting messages on an onscreen refrigerator door.

The address book does a good job of managing names and addresses to help you track things like holiday lists, and HomeLife can print in about 20 label formats.

The program also stores birth certificates, immunization records, emergency numbers, and the like, all of which you easily key into predefined forms.

While Day-Timer HomeLife helps you organize your busy schedule, you may be content just to stick notes on your real refrigerator door or write on a master paper calendar. But if you want help keeping track of your active family, pick up a copy of HomeLife.

WAYNE KAWAMOTO

FILEBOX

Day-Timer HomeLife

Pros: Helps keep a busy family organized with a calendar, an address book, and a basic database.

Cons: May not fit into your family's daily routine.

Verdict: An easy-to-use, family-oriented personal information manager.

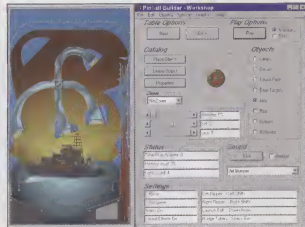
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ENTERTAINMENT

Pinball Builder

Ever since you were a young boy, you played the silver ball—but now you're looking for a bigger challenge. Why not design the table of your dreams with Pinball Builder: A Construction Kit? Even a pinball wizard knows you don't need supple wrists to engineer a table, just lots of patience.

Start by selecting a base table from one of 32 configurations. Add your own designs or choose from a library of images.



You can create a game that activates multiballs every time you hit a bumper. Then set up lamps, decals, drop targets, pins, jets, touch pads, kickers, and rollovers. Associate the lights, sounds, and scores to each table object. You can even set up the table to activate bonus rounds or collect a variety of other action-bonuses, such as extra balls, jackpots, and skill shots. Tired of table developing already? Pinball Builder provides eight preconfigured tables that are ready to play.

Of course, no video-pinball simulation can replace the real thing. Unfortunately, the opportunity to construct your own table isn't possible at the local arcade. And previous video-pinball-construction programs simply didn't offer as many options. Pinball Builder gives you the most complete experience any pinball wizard could want without having to lift the glass and move the bumper.

DAVID SPARK

FILEBOX

Pinball Builder A Construction Kit

Pros: Large variety of pinball-table designs and game-creation objects.

Cons: Building a table is not as easy as playing one.

Verdict: Create the pinball table you always wanted to play, or use one of the preconfigured tables.

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"LapLink consistently outperformed pcAnywhere on our network. With LapLink, we felt as though the remote system was performing tasks locally, but when we switched to pcAnywhere we still felt as though we were using a modem."
PC Magazine March 26, 1996

"LapLink is still the tool of choice for laptop users. It may be the only remote access product you need."
LAN Magazine June 1996

"LapLink is the easiest program to use, and it's one of the fastest and steadiest."
Federal Computer Week Feb. 6, 1996

"LapLink is a powerhouse for, and the granddaddy of, remote computing."
Home Office Computing May 1996

"...LapLink's speed and intuitive design make it the best choice in the market."
Info World Jan. 29, 1996

"After hours of testing, a clear usability winner emerged: LapLink was far and away our testers' top choice for fuss-free remote access to files, programs, or a network, and for remote training and technical support."
PC Computing Sept. 1996

"If you haven't upgraded your LapLink in a while, it's time to do it again. LapLink for Windows 95 is good."
BYTE May 1996

"When we matched it up against Symantec's pcAnywhere32 in our labs, we found that LapLink is the product we'd want with us on the road."
PC Computing May 1996

If you think file transfer is all we do, you need to catch up on your reading.

Computer industry experts aren't in the habit of agreeing with each other. When they do, it's definitely worth noting.

It's also worth noting that LapLink® has already racked up more prestigious industry awards (twenty-three of 'em, at last count) than every other remote access software package. Combined.

And now that LapLink is available for Windows NT, you have every reason in the world to request one of our free, fully-functional trial packs.

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You'll find MacOpener at leading software dealers for about \$49.



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18" VIEWABLE IMAGE SIZE

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The performance of the best 21" monitor.

The image quality of the new 19" SuperScan Elite 751 is only bit as good as the best 21" monitor — and in some ways better. For example, its focus is a full 30% sharper than

	HITACHI ELITE 751	SONY 2056R
TUBE SIZE	19"	20"
PITCH	0.22 (H) 0.14 (V)	0.25
MAX. REFRESH @ 1600 x 1200	75 Hz	75 Hz
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$1,149	\$3,000

THE SONY IS AN INCH BIGGER BUT COSTS 74% MORE.

Get similar savings over other high-end 20 and 21 inch monitors as well.

the previous state-of-the-art. Plus it delivers brighter, richer color and improved contrast at the same time.

It's also one of the few

monitors of any size that gives you *genuine* 1600 x 1200 resolution. And one of fewer still that does it flicker-free to the VESA recommended 75 Hz refresh rate.

The new tube with multi-step dynamic focus and auto-astigmatism correction is also flatter than many CRTs so it displays a more accurate image with less distortion, even at screen edges and in the corners.



The footprint of a 17" monitor.

Look at the footprint and you're in for another surprise. The same technology that made our tube better also made it shallower — just 18.1". So it fits on narrower work surfaces.

And it's priced at just \$1,149 (SRP*)

There's one more bonus to our new 19" tube technology. It's a lot less expensive to make so it goes for hundreds less than a comparable 20" or 21" monitor.

MONITOR	TUBE SIZE (Viewable area)	PITCH (mm)	1600 HORIZONTAL PIXELST
NEC P750	17" (35.6")	0.25 AG	NO
SONY 175EU	17" (35.6")	0.25 AG	NO
NITACHI ELITE 751	19" (48.0")	0.22 horiz	YES (1672)
SONY 205H1	20" (50.8")	0.30 AG	NO
VIEWSONIC GT80D	20" (50.8")	0.30 AG	NO
MITSUBISHI RT10M	21" (53.3")	0.28 AG	NO

Beware of monitors that claim 1600 x 1200 but lack a tube that can resolve 1600 horizontal pixels. Compare screens at 1600 x 1200 before you buy.

So if you want the resolution of a big screen monitor without the bulk and price of a conventional 20" or 21", you've got to see the new Elite 751. Call for details and dealers near you. **800 441-4832.**



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HITACHI

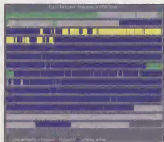


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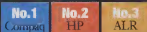


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Server Version: \$399

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U.S. Market Share:
Pentium Pro CPU



Source: IDC - December, 1999*

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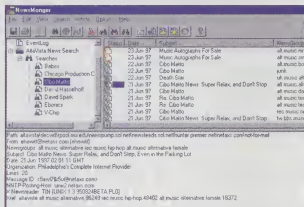
Start Newsmonger's search wizard by entering your keywords in order of importance. Next, indicate how narrow or wide you want your search focus to be. Newsmonger determines the Boolean arguments—a lifesaver for those of

us who still don't know how to write a proper search statement. Set your inquiry to run while you read messages or configure Newsmonger to automatically monitor all the newsgroups at predetermined intervals.

Newsmonger is not just a search tool. You can also use it to reply to a resultant message via e-mail or to add a message to an interesting newsgroup thread.

Although Newsmonger makes it easier to sift through thousands of newsgroup messages, it does introduce the new problem of managing your queries. Therefore, the success of your queries rests on the initial criteria chosen and the filters you later impose to narrow the scope of your results. Developing a search method that works for you takes patience.

But if you value newsgroup information, take the extra time to learn to use Newsmonger. **DAVID SPARK**



MULTIMEDIA GAME

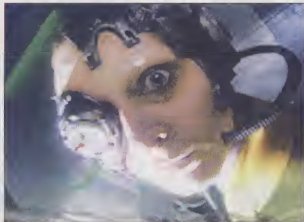
Star Trek Borg

Those pesky Borg—they're everywhere these days. Now *Star Trek's* coolest villains have beamed to your PC in an order of an interactive adventure game. Incorporating seamless full-screen video, excellent production quality, decent acting, and a semiplausible plot, *Star Trek Borg* looks and feels like an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* TV series. Although neither the Enterprise nor her famous crew appears in the game, there's

one familiar face: Q, played by the often-hilarious John de Lancie.

As a young Starfleet cadet whose father was killed by the Borg, you're hungry for vengeance. Along comes Q, who offers you the chance to travel back through time and prevent your father's death. The game unfolds like this: You watch a few minutes of background video, then pick your course of action from the choices given. If you choose poorly, you see the (usually deadly) consequences and get scolded by Q. Then the sequence is replayed so you can try again.

Borg is an engaging game for die-hard *Star Trek* fans, but the slow-paced interactive sequences will quickly bore other gamers. De Lancie's sharp wit almost saves the game, but in most other ways *Star Trek Borg* is a game only serious Trekkies have the patience to play. **RICK BROIDA**



FILEBOX

Newsmonger

Pros: Uses AltaVista to return newsgroup search results quickly.

Cons: Creating a successful search method takes practice.

Verdict: Newsmonger makes it easy to sift through thousands of newsgroup messages.

\$40 for single user, \$200 for ten-user pack, est. street prices TechSmith (800) 517-3001, (517) 333-2100 Reader Service No. 800

FILEBOX

Star Trek Borg

Pros: All the sights and sounds of a *Star Trek* episode with John de Lancie's Q adding comic relief.

Cons: Some scenes are about as interesting as watching Tribbles reproduce.

Verdict: A game for hard-core Trekkies only; mere enthusiasts need not apply.

\$60 est. street price Simon & Schuster Interactive (800) 983-5333, (212) 698-5333 Reader Service No. 801

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TeleVideo SV100	0.28	1280x1024	30-70	349	TeleVideo SV210	0.26	1280x1024	30-70	568	TeleVideo SVP350	0.28AG	1600x1200	30-107	1889
PanaSync E15	0.27	1024x768	30-61	399	NEC XV17+	0.28	1280x1024	31-65	850	NEC P1150	0.28AG	1600x1200	31-94	2079
Mag InnoVision DX1595	0.28	1280x1024	30-65	429	PanaSync S17	0.27	1280x1024	30-69	799	Sony CPD300SF	0.30AG	1600x1200	30-85	1999
Viewsonic 15GS	0.28	1280x1024	30-69	429	ViewSonic 17GS	0.27	1280x1024	30-69	699	ViewSonic PT810	0.30AG	1600x1200	30-96	1899

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PERFORMANCE TESTS
Source: PC Magazine, December 3, 1996

Windows 97 High-end	Score
Sys Performance P200	20
MicroM Millennia Pro 2 200 Plus	19
Dell XPS Pro200i	18
Gateway 2000 G6-200	17
Windows 97 Business	Score
Sys Performance P200	30
MicroM Millennia Pro 2 200 Plus	28
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Gateway 2000 G6-200	20

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- Microsoft serial mouse
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- Microsoft serial mouse
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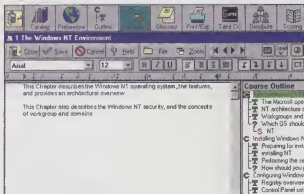
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LULIT BEZUAYEHU

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Design-A-Course

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Cons: Got a question? The help system won't help.

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COOKING

Guide to Good Cooking

 Tired of eating sloppy joes for dinner? Fire up Williams-Sonoma Guide to Good Cooking CD-ROM and find out what treats your deprived palette could be enjoying. You get a tasty collection of over 1,000 trendy recipes with mouthwatering photos (what else would you expect from the upscale kitchen retailer?), plus a Menu Planner and mini cooking school.

The Guide to Good Cooking is a great resource for

choosing your menu. The CD includes about as many recipes as the popular *New Basics* cookbook, and far more than the 100 or so in Microsoft's Julia Child CD. The dishes taste as good as they sound, too: The risotto with artichokes will impress even the pickiest palette. The CD even adapts recipes according to your number of guests, and you can print out the instructions. You can also make a shopping list that you arrange by the sections of your grocery store.

The recipes include nutritional information that sadly demonstrates that fat does taste good—but that info helps you eliminate the recipes with ingredients you want to avoid. The CD has a few shortcomings, such as the tiny music, the jerky video demos, and the less-than-helpful glossary.

But those are nits. If you like to cook, get the Williams-Sonoma Guide to Good Cooking.

PAUL FRANSON

FILEBOX

Williams-Sonoma Guide to Good Cooking

Pros: Generous selection of imaginative and tasty recipes; includes a Menu Planner.

Cons: Music and demos leave a lot to be desired.

Verdict: A great addition to any cook's kitchen.

\$40 est. street price
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Reader Service No. 803



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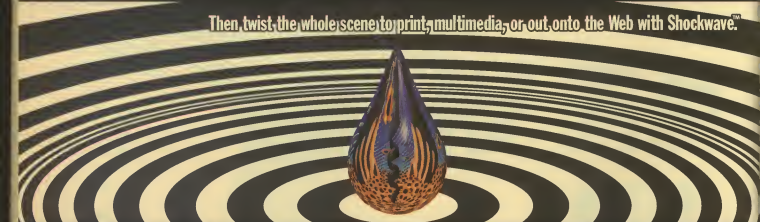
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* DVI: Diagonal viewable image

Circle 318 on reader service card.

REMOTE ACCESS

Remotely Possible/32 NT 3.1

 You don't need smoke and mirrors to operate a computer miles away. You just need Avalan Technologies' Remotely Possible/32 NT 3.1, a first-rate NT remote-access product that makes speedy connections across networks, the Internet, and phone lines. And its powerful multitasking features set it apart from similar programs.

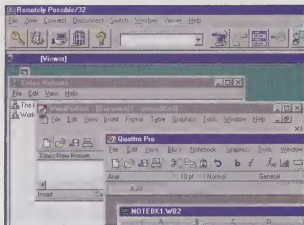
Amazingly, Remotely Possible/32 ships on a single floppy disk that installs different code for Windows NT and 95. We

found the installation straightforward, and the remote installation—a feature only in the NT version—made it easy to configure the program across our test network.

Remotely Possible/32 lets you dial up and command a PC from afar. The program also lets you easily control computers that use different protocols—and you can send or receive files and chat simultaneously. Remotely Possible/32 includes strong security features that cover your PC as well as callbacks and functional access.


On the downside, Remotely Possible/32 doesn't map remote drives as local ones. And it can refresh files, but it can't synchronize directories. Also, the program's sparse main menu pales when compared with Symantec pcAnywhere's wizards.

Overall, Remotely Possible/32 is a speedy solution that delivers on its remote-access promise. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**



DATABASE SERVER

FileMaker Pro 3.0 Server

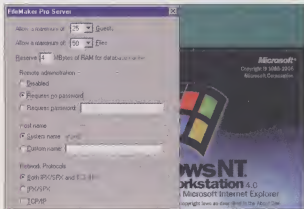
 Does your office live and die by information stashed in central database files? Claris's FileMaker Pro 3.0 Server for Windows NT gives Windows 95, NT, and Macintosh clients quick access to shared FileMaker Pro 3.0 database files across any network. It also offers strong administration tools for keeping files secure and up-to-date.

Pro 3.0 Server is a dedicated host that shares its database files with clients running FileMaker Pro 3.0 on their workstations. Pro 3.0 Server's interface is easy to configure and use.

And the server software shares up to 100 files simultaneously across networks using IPX/SPX or TCP/IP protocols, and hosts up to 100 FileMaker Pro 3.0 users at a time.

Pro 3.0 Server's strengths lie in its fast performance. However, keep in mind that performance varies depending on your network and hardware setup. Network administrators can send messages to users, open and close files, disconnect users, and specify the number of clients that can open files. While Pro 3.0 Server offers security, it supports only file passwords created by FileMaker Pro 3.0. To secure the server application, you have to rely on the security built into Windows NT.

FileMaker Pro 3.0 Server for Windows NT is a viable way for medium-size companies to share their FileMaker Pro 3.0 databases across a network. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**



FILEBOX

Remotely Possible/32 NT 3.1

Pros: Flexible, fast, and reliable.

Cons: Lacks directory synchronization and a friendly interface.

Verdict: A powerful, speedy remote-access product for your NT workstations.

\$189 for workstation; \$340 for server, est. street prices
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(800) 441-2281, (508) 429-6482
Reader Service No. 804

FILEBOX

FileMaker Pro 3.0 Server for Windows NT

Pros: Improves database performance; supports up to 100 files and users.

Cons: Relies on Windows NT to secure server application.

Verdict: An excellent database-server solution for midsize businesses.

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Jan once spent all weekend making
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3

4

5

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PCs Complete	(800) 500-8985	302-303	198	www.pcscomplete.com

System Shortlist

Your guide to the top PC configurations

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AcerPower 8095WM	\$1,695	P166	16/256	2.1/IDE	12X	20/64	17"
AcerPower 9136WM	\$2,540	P200	32/256	3.2/IDE	12X	4/64	17"
AcerPower Pentium Pro 9197NC	\$3,165	Pro200	32/256	2.1/SCSI	12X	4/64	17"
Acma Computers (800) 786-6888							
zPower 166V	\$1,865	P166	16/256	1.2/EIDE	8X	20/64	15"
zPower 200	\$2,395	P200	16/512	2.1/EIDE	8X	4/64	15"
P Pro-200 Z Power Series	\$2,695	Pro200	32/256	2.1/EIDE	8X	4/64	15"
Advanced Logic Research (800) 444-6257							
Optima MT 5166	\$1,794	P166	16/256	1.6/EIDE	8X	20/64	15"
Optima DT 5200	\$2,449	P200	16/256	1.6/EIDE	8X	20/64	15"
Evolution DualRDT	\$3,446	Pro200	32/256	3.1/EIDE	8X	20/64	15"
Amx Engineering Corp. (800) 800-6328 ext. 298							
PowerStation 166	\$1,749	P166	16/256	1.6/EIDE	12X	40/64	17"
Amx GFX 200	\$2,249	MMX200	32/256	3.2/EIDE	16X	4/64	15"
PowerStation Pro 200	\$2,395	P200	32/256	3.1/EIDE	12X	40/64	17"
AST Computer (800) 876-4278							
Bravo LC 5166	\$2,226	P166	16/256	1.2/EIDE	8X	20/64	15"
Advantage 9314	\$2,999	P200	24/256	4.0/IDE	8X	20/64	15"
Bravo MS-T 6200	\$3,800	Pro200	32/256	2.5/EIDE	8X	2/64	15"
Austin Computer Systems (800) 268-0494							
PowerPlus 166	\$2,169	P166	16/256	2.0/IDE	8X	2/64	17"
PowerPlus 200	\$2,179	P200	16/256	1.2/EIDE	8X	20/64	17"
Austin Elite	\$2,839	Pro200	32/256	3.1/EIDE	8X	20/128	17"
BoiData Systems (800) 923-2653							
Adventure Series 166	\$1,610	P166	16/256	1.2/IDE	8X	2/64	17"
Adventure Series 200	\$1,810	P200	16/256	1.2/IDE	8X	2/64	17"
Adventure Pro 200	\$2,168	Pro200	32/256	2.5/IDE	8X	2/64	17"
Compaq (800) 392-8883							
Deskpro 2000 5166/1200	\$2,229	P166	16/256	1.2/EIDE	8X	10/64	15"
Deskpro 2000 5200/2500	\$2,199	P200	32/256	2.5/EIDE	8X	10/64	15"
Deskpro 2000 6200/2500	\$2,999	Pro200	16/256	2.5/EIDE	8X	2/64	15"
Compulink Research (800) 811-1555							
PTS-A166 Mid-Tower	\$1,645	MMX166	16/512	2.1/EIDE	8X	30/64	15"
PTS-A200 Mid-Tower	\$2,249	MMX200	32/512	3.2/EIDE	12X	30/64	17"
PTS-A200 Mid-Tower	\$2,308	Pro200	32/256	3.2/EIDE	12X	30/64	17"
Conradt Computer (800) 969-2123							
Multimedia 3D Screamer 12X	\$2,095	MMX166	16/128	4.3/EIDE	12X	40/64	17"
Multimedia MPEG Dream Machine	\$1,995	MMX200	16/128	2.5/EIDE	12X	20/64	15"
Multimedia Wide-SCSI Powerstation	\$2,965	Pro200	64/128	3.2/SCSI	16X	40/64	17"

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE AS OF MARCH 31

Company/Product	Price*	CPU	RAM (MB)/ L2 cache (K)	Hard Disk Capacity (MB)/Type	CD-ROM Speed	Graphics (MB)/ Chip Set	Monitor Size
CyberMax (800) 443-8868							
Max A6-PR166	\$1,649	K5166	32/512	2.5/EIDE	12X	40/64	17"
Max I6-P200MMX	\$2,299	MMX200	48/512	4.0/EIDE	16X	4W/64	17"
Max C7-PR200	\$1,849	CPro200	32/512	4.0/EIDE	16X	40/64	17"
Data Storage Marketing (800) 543-8088							
DataStor P5-166	\$1,930	P166	16/256	2.1/EIDE	8X	20/64	15"
DataStor P5-200	\$2,165	P200	16/256	2.1/ATA-2	8X	20/64	15"
DataStor P6-200	\$2,975	Pro200	32/256	2.1/ATA-2	8X	20/64	15"
Dell Computer (800) 999-7882							
DspPlex G3MT 5166	\$2,716	P166	16/256	2.0/EIDE	8X	2/64	17"
Dimension M20a	\$1,949	MMX200	16/256	2.0/EIDE	12X	20/64	15"
Dimension XPS Pro 200a	\$2,479	Pro200	32/256	3.3/IDE	12X	4W/64	17"
Digital Equipment Corp. (800) 343-4826							
Celebris FX 5166	\$2,506	P166	16/256	2.1/IDE	8X	20/64	17"
Celebris FX 5200	\$2,832	P200	16/256	2.1/IDE	8X	20/64	17"
Celebris 6L 5200	\$3,991	Pro200	32/256	2.1/SCSI	8X	30/64	17"
Everex Systems (800) 343-7301							
Step Premier P166	\$2,321	P166	16/512	2.0/SCSI	8X	4W/64	17"
Step Premier P200	\$2,515	P200	16/512	2.0/SCSI	8X	4W/64	17"
Step Station Pro 200	\$2,959	Pro200	32/256	2.0/SCSI	8X	4W/64	17"
Gateway 2000 (800) 424-1395							
P5-166	\$1,899	P166	24/256	2.0/IDE	12X	30/64	17"
P5-200 FPC	\$2,449	P200	32/256	2.5/IDE	12X	30/64	17"
66-200	\$2,359	Pro200	32/256	3.8/EIDE	12X	4/64	17"
Hewlett-Packard (800) 322-4772 ext. 1558							
Vectra VL 5166 Model 2300-16 CDS	\$2,163	P166	16/256	2.5/IDE	8X	20/64	15"
Vectra XL 5200 Model 2500	\$2,832	MMX200	16/512	2.5/IDE	8X	2/64	15"
Vectra VA 6/200 Model 2500	\$2,638	Pro200	32/256	2.5/IDE	8X	20/64	15"
HIQ Computer Systems (800) 827-5836							
HIQ Apollo + Home Multimedia	\$1,799	MMX166	16/256	1.7/IDE	12X	256/64	15"
HIQ Apollo + Performance Multimedia	\$2,279	MMX200	32/256	2.5/IDE	12X	436/64	15"
Iran Pro Home Station	\$2,449	Pro200	16/256	1.7/EIDE	8X	256/64	17"
IBM (800) 428-7255 ext. 5055							
IBM PC 350	\$2,474	P166	16/256	1.8/IDE	8X	2/64	15"
IBM PC 350	\$3,441	P200	32/512	1.8/IDE	8X	2/64	17"
IBM PC 365	\$3,599	Pro200	32/256	1.6/EIDE	8X	2/64	17"
Maxlinux Computers (800) 889-6294							
Magna Media MMX	\$1,499	MMX166	16/256	2.0/EIDE	12X	20/64	15"
Magna Artist Media MMX	\$2,899	MMX200	32/512	5.1/EIDE	12X	40/64	17"
Magna SCSI Promedia	\$3,699	Pro200	64/256	4.0/SCSI	16X	858/128	17"

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Company/Product	Price*	CPU	MMX/166/12.5 (K)	Hard Disk Capacity (MB/Type)	CD-ROM Speed	Graphics/MB/ Display Size	Monitor Size
Micro Express (800) 989-9900							
MicroFlex-PCU166	\$1,495	P166	16/312	1.2/IDE	8X	20/64	15"
MicroFlex-PCU200	\$1,649	P200	16/256	1.2/IDE	8X	20/64	15"
MicroFlex-PCU/Pro200	\$1,895	Pro200	32/256	2.4/IDE	8X	20/64	15"
Micron Electronics (800) 733-8913							
Milenna MXE	\$2,149	MMX166	16/312	2.1/EIDE	16X	40/64	17"
Milenna HXE	\$2,349	MMX200	16/312	2.1/EIDE	16X	40/64	17"
Milenna Plus Pro 200	\$4,149	Pro200	32/256	2.0/SCSI	12X	40/64	17"
MidWest Micro (800) 445-2015							
MWR-166	\$1,999	P166	16/312	3.2/EIDE	16X	25/64	15"
MWR-200-X	\$2,899	MMX166	32/312	4.0/EIDE	16X	45/64	17"
Office Pro 200-64	\$3,299	Pro200	64/256	4.0/SCSI	16X	85/64	17"
MultiWave Technology (800) 234-3398							
Ultra Power	\$2,215	P166	32/312	2.5/IDE	8X	20/128	17"
Ultra Star 200	\$2,735	P200	32/312	2.5/EIDE	10X	20/128	17"
Pro Power	\$2,875	Pro200	32/256	2.5/EIDE	10X	20/128	17"
NEC Technologies (800) 632-4636							
NEC Ready 9710	\$2,198	MMX166	16/256	2.1/EIDE	8X	20/128	15"
NEC Ready 9716	\$2,899	MMX200	16/256	3.2/EIDE	16X	20/128	15"
NEC Ready Office 1730	\$3,399	MMX200	32/256	3.2/EIDE	12X	20/128	15"
Netis Technology (800) 577-7526							
NS166 Power Station	\$2,099	P166	16/312	2.1/EIDE	8X	2W/128	17"
NS200/PCI	\$2,380	Pro200	32/256	2.1/EIDE	8X	2W/128	17"
Nexar Technologies (888) 639-2772							
Nexar Model 9103	\$2,149	P166	16/312	2.1/EIDE	12X	2W/64	17"
Nexar Model 9103	\$2,399	P200	16/312	2.1/EIDE	12X	4V/64	17"
Packard Bell (800) 733-8986							
Packard Bell Platinum 2010	\$2,199	MMX166	16/256	2.0/EIDE	16X	2D/64	17"
Packard Bell Platinum 2240	\$2,699	MMX200	32/256	3.2/EIDE	16X	2D/64	17"
PC Importers (800) 320-1475							
PCI Business Pro	\$1,799	P166	16/312	1.6/EIDE	8X	2W/64	15"
PCI PowerHouse	\$2,349	P200	32/312	2.5/IDE	8X	4W/64	15"
PCI MIStation	\$2,949	Pro200	64/256	2.5/IDE	8X	4W/64	17"
Polywell Computers (800) 900-5836							
Poly PS-166GX	\$1,550	P166	16/312	2.1/EIDE	12X	2D/64	15"
Poly MS200GX	\$2,499	MMX200	32/312	2.1/EIDE	12X	4W/64	17"
Poly P7-2336	\$3,520	P II 233	64/256	3.2/EIDE	12X	40/64	17"
ProGen Systems (800) 948-1356							
Discover MPES II	\$1,349	P166	16/312	2.1/EIDE	8X	2D/64	15"
Atlas X	\$2,239	MMX200	32/312	5.1/EIDE	16X	4D/64	17"
Profinder SCSI Pro-200	\$2,549	Pro200	32/256	3.2/SCSI	12X	4D/64	17"

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE AS OF MARCH 31

Company/Product	Price*	CPU	MMX/166/12.5 (K)	Hard Disk Capacity (MB/Type)	CD-ROM Speed	Graphics/MB/ Display Size	Monitor Size
Quantex Microsystems (800) 787-8986							
QPS166 SM-2	\$2,199	MMX166	32/312	3.2/EIDE	12X	4V/64	17"
QPS200 SM-2	\$2,449	MMX200	32/312	3.2/EIDE	12X	4V/64	17"
QPS200 SM-4	\$2,799	Pro200	64/0	4.0/EIDE	12X	4W/64	17"
Robotech Corp. (800) 533-0633							
Cobra 166 PWR	\$1,819	P166	16/312	1.2/IDE	12X	4V/64	17"
Cobra XLTX 200 MMX	\$2,749	MMX200	32/312	5.0/IDE	16X	4V/64	17"
Cobra XL PC 200	\$2,395	Pro200	32/256	3.2/IDE	16X	4V/64	17"
Royal Computer (800) 466-0008							
Ultra Media II	\$2,489	P166	16/256	2.0/EIDE	8X	2D/64	17"
Ultra Media II-30	\$2,895	P200	16/256	2.0/EIDE	8X	2D/64	17"
HI Power Server	\$4,895	Pro200	32/256	2.0/SCSI	8X	2D/64	17"
Targem System (800) 824-7267							
Thunderbolt Office Station	\$1,565	P166	32/256	2.1/EIDE	12X	4W/64	15"
Thunderbolt 30X	\$2,255	MMX200	32/312	2.1/EIDE	12X	4V/128	17"
Thunderbolt MWL	\$2,745	Pro200	32/256	3.2/EIDE	12X	4W/64	17"
Tri-Star Computer Corp. (800) 844-2993							
SDHD MMX	\$1,855	MMX166	32/256	2.1/EIDE	12X	3D/64	15"
STP Station	\$2,295	P200	32/256	2.5/EIDE	12X	3D/64	17"
StarStation	\$2,995	Pro200	32/256	2.5/EIDE	12X	3D/64	17"
Unisys (800) 874-8647							
Aquanta DX	\$2,295	P200	16/258	1.6/EIDE	8X	2D/64	15"
Aquanta OM-6	\$4,475	Pro200	32/258	4.2/SCSI	4X	4V/128	17"
USA Flex (800) 723-0334							
Advanced Workstation	\$1,849	P166	16/256	1.6/EIDE	8X	2D/64	15"
Power Workstation	\$2,549	P200	32/512	2.1/EIDE	8X	2W/128	17"
Pro Workstation	\$2,799	Pro200	32/256	2.1/EIDE	8X	2W/128	17"
XI Computer (800) 432-0486							
XI P166 Mfower SP	\$1,799	P166	32/312	2.1/EIDE	16X	3D/64	17"
XI MMX200 Mfower SP	\$2,249	MMX200	32/312	2.1/EIDE	16X	3D/64	17"
XI Pro200 Mfower SP	\$2,799	Pro200	32/256	3.2/EIDE	16X	3D/64	17"
Zenith Data Systems Direct (800) 954-6741							
Z-Station VX 166	\$2,329	P166	32/256	2.5/EIDE	8X	3D/64	17"
Z-Station VX 200	\$2,629	P200	32/256	3.0/EIDE	8X	3D/64	17"
Performance Pro 200	\$2,999	Pro200	32/256	3.0/EIDE	12X	3D/64	17"
Zenon Technology (800) 899-8119							
Zenon Optima SCSI Station	\$3,179	Pro200	32/312	4.0/SCSI	12X	4D/64	17"
Zenon Optima SCSI Server	\$3,449	Pro200	32/256	4.0/SCSI	8X	2D/128	17"

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 Princeton E050 15" 0.3mm 289.78
 Princeton R070 17" 0.3mm 519.72
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 Sony Multiscan 2004 17" PnP 0.25mm 784.77
 Sony Multiscan 3002 20" PnP 0.30mm 1065.48
 ViewSonic E941 14" 0.28mm 228.08
 ViewSonic E655 19" 0.28mm 318.48
 ViewSonic P1779 17" 0.25mm 819.54
 ViewSonic P61 21" 0.25mm 1584.94

PROCESSOR UPDATES

intel

Pentium OverDrive Processors 139.06
 83MHz 189.27
 100/133MHz upgr for 586, 586S 189.27
 125MHz upgr for 586 299.37

OverDrive Processors

wMMX Technology 339.98
 125MHz upgr for 72MHz 339.98
 150MHz upgr for 90MHz 434.26
 160MHz upgr for 100MHz 434.26

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 3Com 33 10BT LAN modem 308.24
 3Com 33 10BT LAN modem combo 339.79
 Hayes ACCURA 33 179.20
 Hayes OPTIMA 336 w/Zapack 189.27
 Hayes OPTIMA 56K 207.04
 Motorola Modem 33.6 179.20
 Motorola Memer 33.6 349.54
 New Modem PC Card joystick adapter 57.30
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Hayes

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 OPTIMA 336 Business Modem external 240.00
 ACCURA 56K internal 169.97
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 OPTIMA 96K internal 284.41
 OPTIMA 96K external 273.20
 ACCURA 96K 249.45

MOTOROLA

ModemSURFR 56K internal 149.24
 ModemSURFR 56K external 186.10
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 56K external 269.91
 Analog ISDN V.34 modem external 244.74
 DataBurst ISDN V.34 external 205.48
 DataBurst ISDN V.34 external 236.48

INTERNET

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 ComStar 33.6 voice/56K internal 114.99
 V.34 Plus 33.6 56K internal 62.37
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 56K internal 139.12
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brother

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Canon

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 LC-70 179.20
 LC-70 245 207.20
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EPSON

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Table listing prices for SIMM MODULES (Add \$5.00 for SIPP)

Table listing prices for AST MEMORY with columns for quantity and price.

Table listing prices for NEC MEMORY with columns for quantity and price.

Table listing prices for PC MEMORY with columns for quantity and price.

Table listing prices for PC CARDS (PCMCIA) VERSION 2.0 with columns for quantity and price.

Table listing prices for HARD DISK DRIVES (EIDE) with columns for quantity and price.

Table listing prices for HARD DRIVES FOR LAPTOP & NOTEBOOK with columns for quantity and price.

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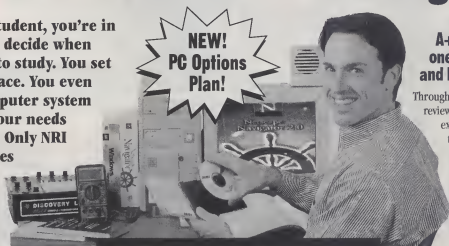
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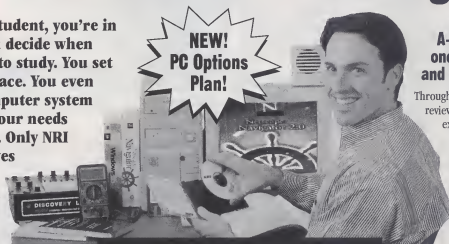
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288 30	10	14.00	288 30	10	14.00
288 35	10	14.00	288 35	10	14.00
288 40	10	14.00	288 40	10	14.00
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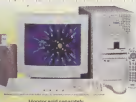
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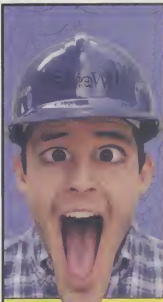
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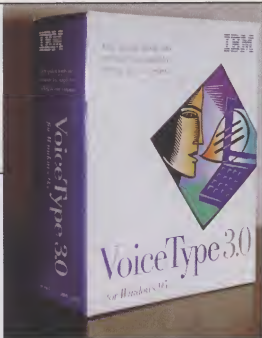
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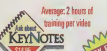
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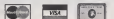
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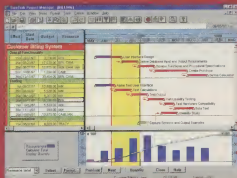
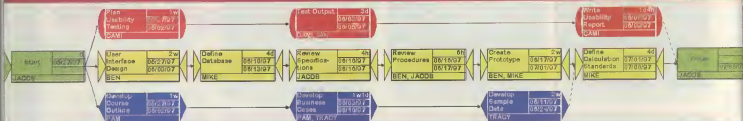
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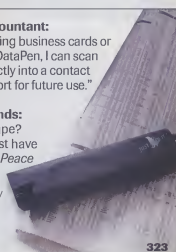
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Pocket-size Windows PCs

That 6-pound multimedia notebook is great when you're crunching data, but it can feel like a boat anchor when you're sprinting to catch a flight. New pocket-size PCs let you shed the extra weight of a notebook, yet still take your e-mail, schedule, and even a few Windows apps with you on the road.

Outfitted with Microsoft's Windows CE operating system, these pint-size portables are the first true pocket-size extensions of desktop PCs.

We looked at the five latest Windows CE machines: NEC's MobilePro HPC 450, Hewlett-Packard's 320LX Palmtop PC, Philips's Velo 1, Casio's Cassiopeia, and Compaq's PC Companion C120. At first glance, all five systems seem similar. All of them weigh around 1 pound, measure roughly 7 inches by 4 inches by 1 inch when

closed, and rely on a grayscale display. All have compact QWERTY keyboards, touch-sensitive screens, and serial and infrared ports. Finally, all ship with Microsoft's Pocket Word and Pocket Excel, basic address-book and contact-management software, and Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Closer inspection, however, reveals some important differences.

Keep Going The NEC MobilePro HPC 450 is great if you plan to keep your pocket PC up and running

constantly. It boasts an NEC Vr4101 processor that extends battery life up to 30 hours between recharges by relying on several forms of power management, including sleep mode. Although its backlit touch screen is only the standard 480-by-240-pixel LCD, it's the brightest of the bunch and has the best contrast, qualities that make its long battery life even more impressive.

The MobilePro 450 is at the high end of the price scale, but it comes loaded

with a generous 8MB of ROM and 4MB of RAM, a diminutive AC adapter, and a docking cradle with a built-in recharger. Considering its battery life, size, display, and spacious keyboard area, the NEC is the most versatile handheld PC of the lot.

Big View Hewlett-Packard packs the most into its palmtop. Its high-end HP 320LX Palmtop PC offers the only 640-by-240-pixel display on a Windows CE handheld, but the unit itself is only slightly bigger than the others.

The extra width also contributes to the most tactile keyboard with the largest keys and best key travel.

The 320LX Palmtop includes a docking cradle and an AC adapter, as well as 5MB of ROM, 4MB of RAM,



The Long Run: With the NEC MobilePro HPC 450 you can leave your extra batteries at home. Thanks to its power-conserving processor, it runs for up to 30 hours.

MobilePro HPC 450 / NEC Computer Systems / (888) 306-4636 / \$649 est. street price for 4MB of RAM / Reader Service No. 817

Easy Read: Stop squinting. HP's 320LX Palmtop PC offers the widest display around for a Windows CE machine—a boon for viewing Web pages and full-page documents.

320LX Palmtop PC / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 443-1254 / \$699 est. street price for 4MB of RAM

Web-Ready: Connect to the office or the Web from anywhere. The Philips Velo 1 comes with everything you need, including a built-in modem and a Web browser.

Velo 1 / Philips / (888) 367-8356 / \$599 est. street price for 2MB of RAM / Reader Service No. 818

Penny Pincher: Just want to take simple notes and get e-mail? The Casio Cassiopeia is a bargain-hunter's dream, and comes with all the software you need to keep connected.

Cassiopeia / Casio / (800) 962-2746 / \$499 est. street price for 2MB of RAM / Reader Service No. 819

Desktop Talker: The Compaq PC Companion offers all the standard features, plus a great way to talk to your desktop PC—for one of the lowest prices around.

PC Companion C120 / Compaq Computer Corp. / (800) 345-1516 / \$499 est. street price for 2MB of RAM / Reader Service No. 820

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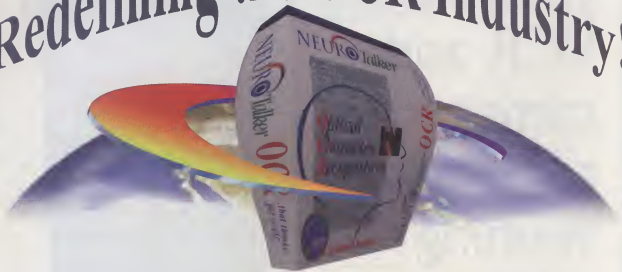
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Soho Usability Test



and both a half-size Compact Flash miniature-card slot and a Type II PC Card slot. Another advantage of the HP 320LX is that it's the only handheld with a printer driver, so you can print directly via an infrared port to Hewlett-Packard's infrared-equipped LaserJet and DeskJet printers. If the \$699 price tag is too stiff for you, the HP 300LX Palmtop PC is available for \$499 with 4MB of ROM, 2MB of RAM, and no miniature-card slot or docking cradle.

Palmtop-size Powerhouse

Philips's Velo 1, which ships with a generous 8MB of ROM in both its 2MB and 4MB RAM models, is the most innovative palmtop PC of the bunch. Philips's own R3910 RISC processor drives an included 19.2Kbps fax

modem and an integrated digital-voice recorder. Speak into its embedded microphone to store 16 minutes of speech for every 1MB of storage.

The price for this power is battery life, and the Velo 1 runs only about 15 hours with fully charged batteries, and a mere 4 hours with heavy modem use. Fortunately, the Velo's built-in recharger lets you power back up just by plugging in its bundled AC adapter.

The Velo 1 ships with a docking station and a pair of miniature-card slots. While there aren't as many peripherals available for the miniature slots as there are for regular PC Card slots, this machine comes with so much stuff there's little more you're likely to need. For the most part, you'll want to take advantage of the slots for

additional storage. Philips sells several flash-memory cards for the Velo 1.

Take It Home The Casio Cassiopeia is one of the most affordable palm-size PCs. The Model A-10 with 4MB of ROM and 2MB of RAM sells for \$499, while the Model A-11 with 4MB each of ROM and RAM sells for \$599.

Casiopeia's keyboard and display are identical in size and quality to other 480-by-240-pixel handheld PCs. But it stands out with its included software: bFax, for fax transmission of text and bitmap files, and Virtual Courier for syncing remotely with Lotus cc:Mail and Microsoft Mail systems. The Cassiopeia also has optional cables so it can hook up to the Casio QV Digital Camera.

For syncing files with your PC, the Cassiopeia has a few

options: the AC-S10 cradle with an AC adapter and a large docking station for \$60, or the UT-S11 cradle with a battery charger, a rechargeable battery pack, an AC adapter, and a mini docking station for \$130.

Well-Connected While the Compaq PC Companion matches the Casio almost feature for feature, it includes some software titles that make it a better choice if you want to connect to your desktop PC often.

For easy desktop connectivity, the PC Companion includes DataViz Desktop To Go and River Run's Mail on the Run remote access for Lotus cc:Mail and Microsoft Mail.

SIDE BY SIDE WINDOWS CE HANDHELDS

Not all Windows CE-based handheld PCs are alike. While they all have a similar core set of features, we found that each of the five machines we examined has tricks that clearly set them apart from each other.



NEC MobilePro HPC 450: A couple of alkaline batteries are all you need to run for up to 30 hours with the MobilePro HPC 450—that's 10 hours longer than the competition.



Hewlett-Packard 320LX Palmtop PC: HP's 320LX features a display that's 160 pixels wider than any of the other units. It also has the biggest, most usable keyboard.



Philips Velo 1: Don't worry about finding a free slot when you want to go online. The Velo 1 has a space-saving built-in software modem. Just plug your phone line into the pop-up jack.



Casio Cassiopeia: Casio's palmtop adds new life to the Casio QV Digital Camera. With a special serial cable, the Cassiopeia can store or transmit the camera's images.



Compaq PC Companion C120: Don't sweat finding a phone line when it comes time to check your e-mail. Compaq's PC Companion hooks directly into SkyTel's two-way pager.

Soho Usability Test



Windows in Hand

	NEC MobilePro HPC 450	HP 320LX Palmtop PC	Philips Velo 1	Casio Cassiopeia	Compaq PC Companion
Resolution	480 by 240	640 by 240	480 by 240	480 by 240	480 by 240
Slots	1 PC Card	1 PC Card/1 mini	2 mini	1 PC Card	1 PC Card
Storage	8MB	5MB	8MB	4MB	4MB

The PC Companion C120 (\$499) comes with 4MB of ROM and 2MB of RAM; the C160 (\$699) comes with 4MB of ROM and RAM, and a 14.4Kbps modem to boot. Compaq also has cheap docking options. A combo package that includes an AC adapter, a battery recharger, a spare battery pack, and a Quick Connect Adapter sells for \$89. An adapter more substantial than the Quick Connect sells for \$39.

Windows To Go Are any of these palm-size PCs the perfect portable? Not yet, but

they all bring us closer to the promise of running Windows anywhere, anytime.

If you plan to use your handheld for hours on end, pick the NEC MobilePro. It runs for hours even while its screen shines brightly. If you're looking for some breathing room, check out the HP 320LX Palmtop PC. It's the only one that offers a full 640-by-240 view. It also has the most usable keyboard of the bunch. If speed and online communications are key, the Philips Velo 1 is your best bet. Its impressive processor and built-in

modem get you online and computing fast—just make sure you have extra batteries. Casio's Cassiopeia offers unique features like advanced e-mail options and digital camera compatibility, and is one of the best-priced models around. Finally, if your primary purpose is to communicate with your desktop PC from the road, Compaq's PC Companion is a good choice. While its hardware is nothing out of the ordinary, it comes with the software you need to reach your desktop files from afar. **MIKE HOGAN**

Lab notes

Usability and connectivity are two advantages Windows CE handhelds have over past PDA generations, so we examined each palmtop in terms of ease of use and the ability to synchronize with a 200MHz Pentium PC running Windows 95.

Ergonomically, all the pens and touch screens worked well, but none of the keyboards handled more than one-finger typing. We experimented to see how easy it was to crank out notes that way and by using the stylus.

We created e-mail, Pocket Word and Pocket Excel documents, and made changes to our Contacts, Calendar, and Tasks lists. Then we made a serial-port connection and synchronized files between the handhelds and our desktop PC.

Since Microsoft wrote the software on both platforms, synchronization was a no-brainer. A Microsoft Wizard even popped up to walk us through the unusual process of plugging in five different portables. When communications software or modems were included, we tested how easy it was to send and receive e-mail, hook up to remote desktops, and connect to the Web.

We found that their familiar setup and ease of connectivity made the Windows CE handhelds more usable than earlier PDA models.

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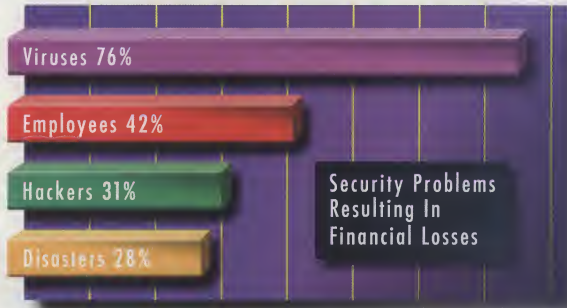
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 - Home
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2. MAC	13. Spreadsheet	23. Integrated/Multifunction
3. Laptop	14. Personal Finance	24. CAD
4. Printer	15. Desktop Publishing	25. CD-ROM
5. Monitor	16. Word Processor	26. On-Line Services
6. Disk/Type Backup-up	17. Database Manager	
7. Ad-in Board	18. Graphics	
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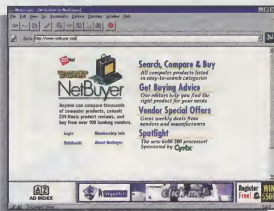
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Vice President, Marketing
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PC Computing's
Guide to the Best
Of the Net

BY RICH SCHWERIN

ANALOG MODEM STANDARDS

The 56K Question

At times it feels like the Web is nothing but an elaborate endurance test. You wait and wait. Plenty of promises have been made about cable and ADSL modems, but both require special wiring and an even longer wait for ISP support. Want a speed boost right now? 56Kbps modems use your regular phone line, download data at twice the speed, and are available today.

A downstream modem transfer of up to 56Kbps sounds great—it nearly doubles the fastest 33.6Kbps modems, and it works over existing phone lines. But in the absence of a 56Kbps standard and none in sight before year's end, the market is filled with corporate rhetoric and hyperbole from two competitors.

In one corner—x2, backed by U.S. Robotics and chip sets from Texas Instruments. In the other—K56Flex, backed by Diamond Multimedia Systems, Hayes, Practical Peripherals, and others, with chip sets from Rockwell Semiconductor Systems. X2 and K56Flex are not compatible, so find out which one your ISP supports, because both require like technology on

either end of the connection.

U.S. Robotics boasts that more than 400 ISPs offer x2, while Rockwell claims an almost equal number signing on with K56Flex. But a close comparison of ISP lists from the two camps reveals that more than two-thirds actually support both technologies—after all, they can't afford not to in the highly competitive ISP market.

If your ISP offers both, then the most important question to ask is how many Points of Presence (POPs), or phone numbers you dial to get online, are offered for each. The more POPs, the better your chance of getting online at 56Kbps, right? Not exactly. The caveat here is that with either x2 or K56Flex, your transmission rate will vary. If your office uses a PBX, you'll be lucky to reach transfer rates in the low 40s. And because line conditions vary from one telco to another, reaching 56Kbps throughput is rare. Also, both technologies are asymmetrical—you get 56Kbps downstream, but only 33.6Kbps upstream.



The Choice Is Yours: You want 56Kbps access over your analog line. But deciding between battling technologies—x2 and K56Flex—is a tricky proposition, so choose carefully.

Which standard is best for you? U.S. Robotics won the race to get us the first 56Kbps modem for testing, with its x2-based modem. And x2-supported POP lines were the first available for us to connect to. For more info about the first two 56Kbps modems, check out our review, "Two Ways to 56K," on page 104. But before making a decision, check with your ISP.



1,001 Top Free Downloads: June Update

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Name	Filename/Size/Time*	The Buzz
Apogee Stargunner	ISTAR.ZIP/5,216K/25 minutes	Blast away space aliens and save the universe from evil darkness.
Mark Bailey Fund Manager	AMFW32.ZIP/527K/3 minutes	Track your mutual funds and other investments and retire early.
Development Webber 1.4	WEB32INS.EXE/3,623K/20 minutes	Master the Web with this great page-development/HTML editor.
Go Ahead Software Got It	GOTTIT11.EXE/1,912K/11 minutes	Accelerate your online Web experience with intelligent agents.
Innovative Logic Cross Trainer	XTRNER.ZIP/995K/5 minutes	Be a health nut: Keep an eye on your nutrition and exercise.
Password Memorizer	PSSMEM.ZIP/3,817K/18 minutes	Stop fretting—plug all your passwords into one handy utility.
Nick Payne Cryptext	CRYPTEXT.ZIP/59K/1 minute	Loose lips sink ships. But not if you encrypt your sensitive files.
Tags NetSearch	NS2WA.ZIP/3,197K/15 minutes	Send your search query to more than 30 engines at once.

*ESTIMATED DOWNLOAD TIMES ARE CITED AT 28.8KBPS, ACTUAL TIMES VARY

Get Active with **ActiveX**

BY ED BOTT

Early this year a group of pranksters from Hamburg's Chaos Computer Club appeared on a German television station with a startling live demonstration. Their bait was a Web page whose message translated roughly as "Become a millionaire in five minutes," above a tempting Click Here link. When a user viewing the Web page with Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 took the bait, the hackers' ActiveX component quietly installed itself, surreptitiously added an unauthorized transaction to the user's copy of Quicken, and transferred a small sum of money without human intervention.

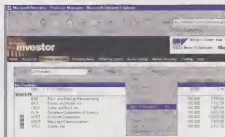
It was a crude hack, and no one lost any real money. But it served to illustrate the dangers of ActiveX, the cornerstone of Microsoft's Internet strategy. ActiveX is a broad term that covers a variety of technologies. Most commonly it refers to component software used across a network like the Internet.

Internet Explorer makes it easy to download and install ActiveX components. In fact, critics say, it's too easy.

Using Microsoft's ActiveX-enabled Internet Explorer 3.0, for example, you can download components that let your Web browser display content that garden-variety HTML can't handle, like stock tickers, cascading menus, or Adobe Acrobat documents.

ActiveX controls extend the capabilities of a browser and can also be used with other applications. Java applets offer a third way to extend the browser's reach, but with a significant difference: Thanks to the Java virtual machine's Security Manager, a Java applet cannot interact with resources on the user's machine, whereas plug-ins and ActiveX are specifically designed to work with user files and applications. Common scripting languages, which allow all three types of add-ins to interact, blur the picture even further.

Microsoft's browser makes it easy to download and install ActiveX components. In fact, critics say, it's too easy. Downloadable components can be signed



Beyond HTML: The spreadsheet-like stock displays and pull-down menus are courtesy of Microsoft's custom ActiveX controls.

with digital certificates from a certifying authority such as VeriSign, and the default Internet Explorer settings pop up an official-looking Authenticode dialog box that lets you decide to install a downloaded component. But the certificate can't tell you anything about the safety of the applet itself, nor can it confirm that a sloppy publisher hasn't had its key stolen.

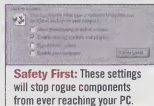
If you use a non-Microsoft browser, ActiveX security is a non-issue. For Internet Explorer users, though, the threat of hostile applets is real indeed. Know your security settings, and don't accept code from strangers.

Tips, Tricks, and Techniques

Stop ActiveX controls and Java applets in their tracks.

One sure way to avoid threats to your system's security is to prevent Internet Explorer from downloading any ActiveX or Java components. An even more drastic approach is to disable any ActiveX components, even those already installed, from running inside a browser window. To stop downloads, open Internet Explorer 3.0 and choose View, Options; click on the Security tab and uncheck the box labeled Allow Downloading of Active Content. Now when you encounter a page that contains an ActiveX control not yet installed on your system, you'll see either a blank space or a

red X where the control would normally appear. To download that control, check the Allow Downloading box and then reload the page. Leaving the remaining three checkboxes in the Active Content area unchecked completely disables ActiveX controls, Java applets, and all scripts—even when the code is already stored on your machine.



Safety First: These settings will stop rogue components from ever reaching your PC.

How to peek inside an ActiveX control. Many ActiveX components use DOS-style 8.3 filenames, which makes it difficult to figure out which file does what—until you right-click and choose Properties, that is. The filename `lxtxt.ocx` is simply inscrutable, but the Version tab on its Properties sheet identifies it more fully as the Microsoft Investor Ticker. You'll also find useful date and version information there. Unfortunately, you can't uncover any dependencies with other ActiveX controls or DLLs using this technique. Internet Explorer 4.0 (available in an early preview version) will offer more information

about installed controls, and may even include an interface for updating or deleting components.

Take even more control with Authenticode digital signatures. Hardwired into Internet Explorer 3.x is a mechanism for verifying the source (but not the safety) of a downloaded component. When you view a page that contains an unknown ActiveX control, Internet Explorer 3.x downloads the code and checks for a digital signature issued by a trusted third party like VeriSign. The certificate dialog box tells you who signed the certificate and lets you install the component or cancel the operation. A

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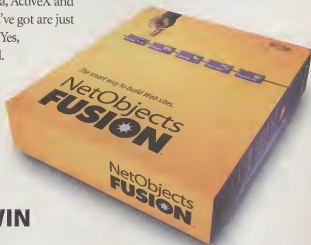
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Required Reading: ActiveX

The Site	What You'll Find There
Microsoft Active Platform www.microsoft.com/activex	News and links to ActiveX resources. Sometimes breathless and always biased, this site emphasizes the glitzy, multimedia-filled aspects of ActiveX and glosses over most technical issues. A good starting point, and the directory pages point to interesting third-party ActiveX sites.
Microsoft Security Advisor www.microsoft.com/security	White papers, news releases, and links—all straight from the home office in Redmond, Washington. A high spin-control factor, but comprehensive and filled with links worth exploring. Managers of corporate sites should jump to pages that describe the Internet Explorer Administrator's Kit.
Java vs. ActiveX www.sun.com/developers/javax.html	And now for something completely different. . . . After you visit Microsoft's ActiveX pages, drop by Sun Microsystems for a Java-centric view of Internet development and security. Follow the links for a tutorial on Java and for recent updates on Sun's ActiveX alternative, JavaBeans.
Death by ActiveX www.digicrime.com/activex	The page title is your tip-off that the security specialists at DigiCrime are concerned over the implications of downloadable code. Get surprisingly clear explanations of complex concepts. Jump to the home page to read about other security issues. View this site's source for clever scripting.
ActiveX (or How to Put Nuclear Bombs in Web Pages) www.halcyon.com/mclain/ActiveX/welcome.html	Software engineer Fred McLain developed the Exploder program as a "nonviolent demonstration of . . . security problems with Microsoft's Internet Explorer." Raises interesting questions about the value of digital certificates. Well-written FAQ and links to related articles make this site worth a visit.
Activex.com www.activex.com	Not scared off yet? Online news service CNet manages this comprehensive directory to ActiveX controls and resources, complete with its own ActiveX-driven menuing system. Extensive control library includes games, developer's tools, browser enhancements, and online applications.
VenSign www.vensign.com	Background information about the best-known provider of digital certificates, one of the core technologies used with Microsoft's Authenticode. Browse certified sites, or order your own Digital ID.



Signed and Sealed: Authenticode certificates offer limited assurance of trust.

certificate does not mean the code is virus-free, bug-free, or even useful—it just means you can identify the person or business that signed the certificate. Two

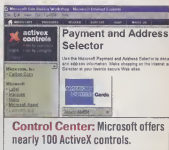
checkboxes at the bottom of the certificate dialog box let you skip this process in the future for code either from that company or from the authority that issued the certificate. Security-conscious users should resist checking either box. The Safety Level button in the Options dialog box controls how unsigned code is handled. The default setting is High, meaning that unsigned code will not be downloaded; choose Medium if you're willing to take your chances on an individual component.

Get the latest security patches. Bugs in the initial release of Internet Explorer 3.0 included some holes in the ActiveX

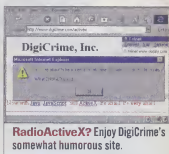
security model. Those were patched in version 3.01, and a subsequently discovered security gap (unrelated to ActiveX) requires an additional patch. Confusingly, the only way to tell which version of Internet Explorer you installed is to choose Help, About Internet Explorer; the 3.01 release identifies itself as 3.0, version 4.70.1215. If you installed the March security patch, you'll see version 3.01a.

Manage your inventory of ActiveX controls.

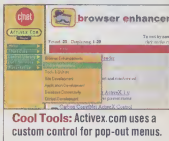
Unfortunately, current versions of Windows include no tools for finding, deleting, or reinstalling ActiveX controls. The manual techniques outlined here are risky,



Control Center: Microsoft offers nearly 100 ActiveX controls.



RadioActiveX? Enjoy DigiCrime's somewhat humorous site.



Cool Tools: Activex.com uses a custom control for pop-up menus.

and only for users who are comfortable with the Windows Registry Editor. Most downloadable controls live in the Occache folder, under the Windows or Winnt system folder; use the Find, Files or Folders command to search for *.OCX files stored elsewhere. A Setup Information file will identify the OCX filename, any accompanying DLLs, and corresponding CLSID entries in the Registry. To kill a control, you must delete the entire Registry subkey and any accompanying files. After taking both those steps, restart Internet Explorer and open the page with the ActiveX control to install the components again.

Time's a-Wastin'

BY RON WHITE

Oh, man! I've got two editors after me about my columns. Another editor insists that I turn in a review on time this issue. I need to get a Ditto tape drive installed before I have



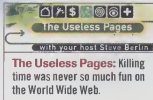
my monthly hard-drive crash. I'm two weeks behind updating my CD-ROM database. I've given my publisher every possible excuse for why I haven't finished my new book outline. My taxes were due in April. And my dog has a look that says I either walk him *now*, or I know what'll happen. Well, you know what they say: 'When the goin' gets tough, the tough get goin'. Except I'm about as tough as a Twinkie. When deadlines surround me, it's surf'n' time!

There's no better way to avoid reality than browsing through time-wasting Web waddles. So turn your browser toward these ultimately useless time terminators.

you can count yourself among those who truly have no lives if you wait it out for a half-hour. Go for it.
www.kfu.com/~nsayer/bored

The 'How Bored Are You?' Game

★★★★ The most useless waste of time you'll find—not simply on the Web, not just on the Internet—but in the entire, known universe. The rules are as simple as this: "You may not open another window. You may not multitask. You may not play this game unless you are so bored that these instructions are an unbearable excitement to you." You're allowed to stare only at the screen, where the length of time you've been doing nothing is updated every 10 seconds. Every so often the message changes, but never to anything as interesting as a bus schedule. The site was created by Nick Sayer—a Unix geek who also provides Federal Communications Commission US Amateur Radio forms for download. Nick says he's too bored by the game to bother keeping a record of winners, but



The Useless Pages

★★★★ The name pretty much says it all. The Useless Pages should probably get five stars, but I knocked off one star because the pages are too interesting to be true time-wasters. Your host, Steve Berlin, offers a personal tour of uselessness—cars, computers, names, *Star Trek*, pets, Spam—and a Useless Hall of Fame.
www.go2net.com/internet/useless/

PeopleFind

★★★★ This one's good for a whole afternoon: Look up the high school cheerleader you never had a chance with, the bully from high

school, people who have the same name as you. And this is a time waster with a bit of irony: I couldn't find anyone with my name, including me. In other words, I wasted time, wasting time! (Hold it! There I am. Whew! For a couple of seconds there I had this strange *Twilight Zone* creepiness.) Stalkers will appreciate PeopleFind's maps, complete with victims' homes and nearby businesses where they can lurk legally. Look up the e-mail addresses of your lost friends and waste more time writing messages to people, who will waste their time reading your messages, and waste their spouses' time telling them about it that night.
www.lycos.com/ppifindr.html

What Television Show Is This Song From?

★★★★ So you can't find any family or fellow employees to bore with your encyclopedic knowledge of inane trivia? Well, your PC never gets tired of you. That's why you love it, right? Point your browser to What Television Show Is This Song From? Immediately you're regaled with a MIDI tune from one of three TV

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shows that are listed as the answer. Take your time. Is it *Star Trek Voyager*, *Twin Peaks*, or *ABC's Wide World of Sports*? Wrong! Try again.
www.geocities.com/~henkin/tgame.html

Sound Ring

★★★★ When it comes to wasting time, Sound Ring is sheer genius—and one of the ten best sites on the Web—although to call it a site is misleading. You can start at the URL I've given you here. But Sound Ring is really a collection of 250 sites, all devoted to their own collections of sounds in WAV, RealAudio, and other formats. From Piker's Pink Floyd Sounds, jump to Stupid Human Noises, then to sound bites from

Sound Ring: Listen in to an unbeatable Web-based audio collection free of charge.

★★★★ Your personal time machine to retirement. ★★★★★ A nice, long nap in the sunshine on a short day. ★★★ Reading the latest best-seller from Stephen King. ★★ Staying late at the office. ★ Working weekends.



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the Marx Brothers, to Skoekoe's-Funky Sound Page, to The Looney Tunes SoundSource, and end up at your choice of sound pages from *The Simpsons*.

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www.light.com.net/javablue/javagames

Random Monty Python Skit Server

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ugweb.cs.uaiherba.ca/~stuart/monty

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www.merc.com/cb/cg/cb_merc.cgi

Dilbert List of the Day

☆☆☆ The best way to extend your Dilbertized time-wasting is with the Dilbert List of the Day, part of The Dilbert Zone. Read the current list and add your own suggestions. Or mosey through a month's worth of lists, such as Ways to Instantly Kill a Project, Uses for Stolen Office Sup-



Dilbert List of the Day: Learn time-killing tips from Dilbert and his better half.

plies, Worst Things to Hear in a Job Interview, Worst Things to Do in the Elevator, and Best Small Businesses to Start from Your Cubicle.

www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert/lotd



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www.riddler.com

GOREY SITE

If Dr. Seuss had been severely depressed, he would have been Edward Gorey, the creator of those dark pen-and-ink drawings for the Mystery credits on PBS. Gorey's *The Gashlycrumb Tinies* is the alphabet set to one-liners about the demise of 26 children. ("M is for Maud who was swept out to sea . . . W is for Winnie embedded in ice.")

cherlotte.acns.nyu.edu/atriel/gorey



As Seen on TV: I know I've seen that widget before. Hey, it was on TV—it must be good!

The World's First Collaborative Sentence

☆☆☆ This is also supposed to be the world's longest sentence—15,846 words, provided you ignore the periods that have been inserted by unknown spoilsports. Read what others before you have added to the sentence—several screens' worth that should easily take up the time you're supposed to be in a conference call. You sometimes run across rants like "who gives a damn about whether this is really the World's First Collaborative Sentence, or just a long string of words masquerading as a single sentence by the rather dictatorial expedient of outlawing periods."

math240.lehman.cuny.edu/sentence1.html

As Seen on TV

☆☆☆ Of course, for pure junk and the ultimate in wasting time, it's hard to top browsing leisurely

through the As Seen on TV page. Yep, if you've seen it sold on television and it's crap, then you'll find it at this site. Whether you're searching for Sea Monkeys, Chia Pets, Miracle Thaw, The Smart Clapper, Super Slicer, Bacon Magic, or DiDiSeven (the miracle stain remover), you'll not only find it here, you can actually order it so you'll be squandering money at the same time you're squandering time—sort of a wasting-time-time-saver.

www.cornells.com/asseentv.htm

HotList

BY JACK LYON
Bookmarks of the Rich and Famous

Travels with Clark Griswold

Are we there yet? This month our spies traveled around the world in search of *Vacation* veteran Clark Griswold, just to get the inside scoop on the foibles of family adventures. Check it out here and online at www.pccomputing.com.



ILLUSTRATION BY TIMOTHY EDWARD DOWNS PHOTOGRAPHS BY SYGMA

Disneyland

Living Hell
uran.net/~srl_f/out.htm/noiesj08.html

A Good Base

Sunburn
www.leschetav.com/letta/westburn.html

Souvenir

Frison by
www.purore.ada/~huber/nyw/ny.html

Family Fun?

The Parent Trap
www.rifehawk.com/mes/partrap

Learn from the Locals

Pickpocket
rosmvch.bvcsd.k12.ca.us/~lstone/mehw/cards/pick_pocket.html

Leisurely Stroll

Car Trouble?
www.hispag.com/html/car_trouble_.html

Roughing It

Lost Luggage
www.lost-luggage.com/

Relax?

The Bill
www.sees.bangor.ac.uk/~matthew/thebill/thebill.html

Rustic Hotel

The Dungeon
www.goochies.com/hibars/Acropolis.html

Left the Stove On?

Paranoia
www.webprinters.com/~mike/copy/

Call It Sightseeing

Hopelessly Lost
www.willanetta.ada/~jmcowan/

Down by the Water

Montezuma's Revenge
gru.fdt.net/~an/montezuma/

'Me amore tua mamma la pollo.'

Learn to Speak Italian
www.eat.com/learn-italian/index.html

Was This in the Brochure?

Hurricane
\$900...
www.hum.htm

Lost Passport

Stranger in a Strange Land
ubalt.edu/~bellotti/stranger.html

Rat Burgers and More

Exotic Dining
Restaurant Guide
Members.aol.com/Eating/homepage.html

Crazy from the Heat

Postcards from the Edge
www.safari-media.com/postcard1.html

Summer Vacation

Come Winter
home.sok.no/andriager/

'Driver, to the hotel please.'

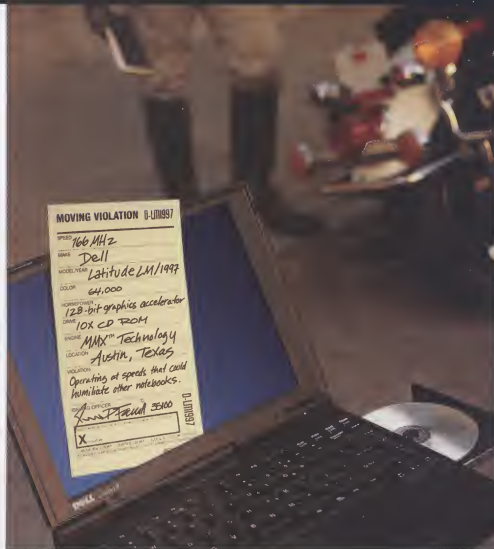
The Long Way
www.best.com/~yeh/ht/shendn/page005/04.html

Captured

Tourist Trap
www.videofricks.com/VF/2/022312.htm



SORRY, OFFICER, WE DIDN'T REALIZE WE WERE GOING THAT FAST.



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- 33.6 U.S. Robotics Telephony Modem with One Cartridge
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- ★ Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$239.
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- ★ Upgrade to a 1000HS Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., 26dp, 1600x1200 max. res.), add \$165.
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- ★ HP Laserjet 5L \$ 399
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- NEW! PCI Bus with 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 64K Colors
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- ★ Upgrade to 40MB RAM, add \$199.
- ★ 2nd Lithium Ion Battery, add \$199.
- ★ Motorola 33.6 Fax Modem, add \$169.
- ★ Leather Carrying Case, add \$129.

\$3599

Business Lease: \$130/Mo.
Order Code #800132

NEW! DELL LATITUDE LM M166ST 166MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

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- 16MB RAM/1.4GB Hard Drive
- NEW! PCI Bus with 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 64K Colors
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- ★ Upgrade to 40MB RAM, add \$299.
- ★ Upgrade to a 2.1GB Hard Drive, add \$200.
- ★ 2nd Lithium Ion Battery, add \$199.

\$3299

Business Lease: \$122/Mo.
Order Code #800101

DELL LATITUDE LM P133ST

133MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR

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- 12" SVGA Active Matrix Color Display
- 16MB RAM/1.4GB Hard Drive
- PCI Bus with 128-bit Graphics Accelerator
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- ★ Upgrade to a 2.1GB Hard Drive, add \$200.
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- Iomega Zip 100MB IDE Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- MS Windows® 95

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- 1000HS Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., 26dp, 1600x1200 max. res.)
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- MS Windows 95

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★ Upgrade to a 17LS Monitor (15.7" v.i.s.), add \$175.

★ 33.6 U.S. Robotics Telephony Modem, add \$109.

★ Sound Blaster 16 ProP Sound Card and Altec ACS-90 Speakers, add \$89.

\$1999

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